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## Jordan warns Israel not to 'cross redline' again

DUBAI (AFP) — The Minister of Interior warned Israel on Sunday that it would pay "a high price" for any further attack in Jordan, after a failed hid to assassinate a Hamas leader. The hid was "unacceptable and they will pay a high price if they try to repeat" such acts, Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid told Al Bayan newspaper in the United Arab Emirates. "Jordan's security is not up for sale or compromise," he said. "We consider it a redline which we will not allow anyone to cross." Mr. Rashid was referring to the September 25 assassination hid in Amman against Khaled Misha'al, Hamas politburo chief, hy Israel's spy service, Mossad.

## EU provides funds for Palestinian hospital

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The European Union signed an agreement with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Sunday to provide up to $12 million in financing for a Gaza Strip hospital, the Palestinian news agency WAFA said. Work on the hospital at Khan Yunis in southern Gaza began several years ago hut was halted for lack of money. "The hospital is expected to open its doors in January and will be a great success for the health ministry," Palestinian Health Minister Ryad Zaanun said.

# Sign-up of runners for 13th Parliament closes

## *561 candidates registered including 17 women*

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five-hundred and sixty-one candidates, including 17 women, registered to contest the 1997 elections of the 13th Parliament.

Fifty-three new candidates joined the race yesterday, on the last day of registrations, while 68 and 440 registered on Saturday and Friday respectively.

Visiting the elections' central operations room at the Ministry of Interior Sunday morning, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was briefed on the current preparations for the Nov. 4 polls (See story on page 3).

The would-be deputies in the 80-seat Lower House were required to pay JD 500 in registration fees and submitted their applications to the administrative governors of the constituencies in which they had chosen to run. According to the Elections Law, the governors will decide within three days from the submission of the applications which candidates will be approved and which will be rejected if found short of the requirements stipulated hy the law.

Sources at the Ministry of Interior said lists of both rejected and approved candidacies will be displayed in each governorate "so that both candidates and voters can see them."

Article 24 of the 1986 Elections Law stipulates that "if the administrative governor decides to reject the candidacy application because it does not conform with the provisions of the law, the applicant may submit an objection thereto before the Court of First Instance."

The law also states that "every voter may appeal the acceptance of any candidacy in his/her constituency before the Higher Court of Justice within three days from the date of display of the lists."

Five-hundred and fifty-nine candidates contested the 1993 elections. However, the total of this year's candidates is somewhat lower than expected. In the last few weeks, local press reports had estimated that more than 750 candidates would run in this year's election race, the third since the resumption of full parliamentary life and the

(Continued on page 2)

# Crown Prince calls on ministers to bridge results of Fifth Science Week with government decisions

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday underlined the need for hridging the results of the Fifth Science Week with the government's decisions in various fields.

Addressing the chairman and members of the Ministerial Development Committee at a meeting held at the Royal Court in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the Regent stressed the importance of classifying government's decisions and working out an action plan for their implementation in accordance with a clearly-set time table.

During the meeting, the committee members thoroughly discussed subjects tackled hy the Fifth Science Week including productivity, quality and transparency and the results of the week's meetings so that action can be taken fnr the implementation of the recommendations passed during the event.

Those resolutions included, among other things, the institutionalisation of the Fifth Science Week which was a scientific demonstration serving as a platform for national dialogue based on facts and scientific knowledge.

At the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Anani, who is the committee chairman, was entrusted with the task of studying the resolutions passed at the Fifth Science Week in conjunction with the concerned ministers in order to classify them and to work out an action plan for their implementation.

A meeting will be held later to finalise discussion of the main topics which include legislation, especially that which concerns a draft law on competition and prevention of monopoly, a draft law on the protection of individual intellectual property, and institutionalising the Fifth Science Week in addition to developing the current civil service regulations.

It is to be noted that the Fifth Science Week which was held in Amman recently followed the convening of three roundtable meetings, the first of which involved Jordanian and Japanese experts which focused on the industrialisation policy, the second involved Jordanian and Canadian experts and focused attention on administrative organisation and the third was with the international society for transparency.

The meeting at the Royal Court was attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development Ahdullah Ensour as well as the ministers of foreign affairs, public works, water and irrigation, energy and mineral resources, industry and trade, finance, agriculture, tourism and antiquities, and information together with the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, deputy secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the president of the Royal Scientific Society.

# Israeli probe opens into Mossad assault; premier says he wants to keep Yatom

**Combined agency dispatches**

A GOVERNMENT inquiry began taking testimony on Sunday about Israel's bungled attempt to murder a leader of the Hamas group in Jordan, a spokesman said.

Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, having ordered Mossad secret agents to assassinate Hamas political chief Khaled Misha'al last month, appointed a three-man "clarification committee" last week to investigate the affair.

Spokesman Mosbe Fogel said the committee, headed hy a former defence ministry legal adviser, was beginning to take testimony at an undisclosed security installation. He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Netanyahu, a right-winger elected on a promise to deliver peace and security, has dodged questions about his competence in battling "terrorism" and managing peace with Jordan, the Arab country that has shown the warmest relations with Israel.

Critics have charged the committee, which includes a former air force chief and former chief of police, will be a whitewash. Opposition leaders complained it would lack the "teeth" of an independent inquiry headed by a judge.

Mr. Netanyahu denied on Sunday he wanted to sack the head of the Mossad spy service over the bungled assassination attempt.

"The prime minister strongly repudiated the reports in the media, according to which he is planning to replace the head of the Mossad [Danny Yatom]," a statement from his office said.

"The prime minister called such reports incorrect, and stressed that he fully supports the Mossad and its leader," it said.

General Yatom was strongly criticised by the Israeli opposition and the press for his role in the attack last month.

Mr. Netanyahu is currently reeling from a wave of domestic and international criticism over his decision to authorise the hit against Mr. Misha'al, and be has ordered the setting up of a "clarification" committee to probe what went wrong.

He has defended his action as necessary to fight terrorism.

"We have to unite against terrorism and continue to hit at it until it is wiped out," Mr. Netanyahu said at a ceremony Sunday to commemorate soldiers wbo fell in the Oct. 1973 Middle East war.

## Albright discusses with Arafat, Netanyahu peace process developments

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke by telephone Sunday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu to encourage them to pursue peace talks.

Ms. Albright discussed with the Israeli leader his summit with President Arafat last week — the first meeting between the two men for eight months — and described the encounter as "progress," Mr. Netanyahu's office said.

"The prime minister stated that the last few days have seen a positive start," it said in a statement.

"But it will only be possible over time to examine whether a real systematic change has taken place, and the Palestinian [National] Authority is conducting a continued fight against terror," it said.

Mr. Netanyahu suspended implementation of peace accords and demanded that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) crack down on Islamists following two Jerusalem bombings claimed hy the Izzeddine Al Qassam Brigade, Hamas' military wing in July and September which killed 21 Israelis.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said Ms. Albright and the Palestinian leader discussed Wednesday's summit and U.S. mediation of peace talks.

Following the surprise summit at the Erez Crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, the Jewish state agreed to unblock $50 million of revenue for the PNA and the two sides agreed to resume security cooperation.

However, there was no progress on the two main issues blocking the peace process: Jewish settlements and Israel's delayed withdrawal from parts of the West Bank.

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross is expected to return to Israel on Saturday to pave the way for four days of high-level Israeli-Palestinian talks in Washington beginning Oct. 27.

# U.S. contemplating new bans against Iraq at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States intends to circulate a resolution this week that may call for travel hans against Iraqi officials, although diplomats say it is far from certain key Security Council members will approve.

U.S. officials consulted with several council members last week, who reported that the travel ban on Iraqi officials responsible for obstructing the work of U.N. arms inspectors were about the only sanctions left that could be imposed.

Alternatively, however, the council could adopt another resolution, extending its threat in June to take further measures. It is also expected to continue its suspension of regular 60-day reviews of stringent trade embargoes imposed on Iraq in 1990 when its troops invaded Kuwait.

With France, Russia and China generally less inclined to approve further measures against Baghdad, there were doubts whether a travel ban or other sanctions would be adopted.

Both U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson and State Department spokesman James Rubin have said that Washington would have a "strong and serious response" when all 15 council members officially discuss the issue Thursday.

They were responding to a report hy Richard Butler of Australia, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. He said Baghdad was imposing new restrictions on U.N. inspectors and concealing vital data about its biological arms programme.

In June, after U.N. experts were blocked on several occasions the council adopted a resolution expressing its "firm intention ... to impose additional measures" on those Iraqi officials responsible, unless the next UNSCOM report showed Baghdad was cooperating.

Mr. Richardson told reporters Friday: "We are very concerned about the violations on the inspections and access. The Iraqis have blocked inspectors from doing their work.

"We are going to have a strong and serious response hut we have not delivered yet our policy statement. We are consulting with our allies and friends on the council.

"Five blocked inspections — those are serious violations," he said. Asked whether he envisaged any new sanctions against Iraq, he replied: "We are looking at a variety of options."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf, who has been attending the U.N. General Assembly session, discussed the UNSCOM report with developing countries on the council for nearly an hour Friday but declined to speak to reporters.

A MATTER OF POWER AND EDUCATION: Three children in Baghdad have no other choice but to do their homework using a lantern for light early Sunday. Baghdad is suffering power cuts as a result of severe shortages of spare parts vital for power plants. Iraq cannot afford to buy these parts for lack of funds caused by the continuing economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. Iraqi children will tommorow mark the10th anniversary of the bombing by Iran of a primary school in a Baghdad suburb where dozens of school-children died as classes were about to start on the day of October 13, 1987 (Reuters photo)

# Nearly 850 killed in Turkish incursion into northern Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey said Sunday that its troops and Iraqi Kurdish allies had killed 797 separatist Turkish Kurds and lost 46 members in three weeks of fighting in northern Iraq following an army incursion into the area.

"A total of 797 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) members have been killed" in action and 40 others have been captured alive or surrendered," a military official told the state-run Anatolian news agency.

Eleven Turkish soldiers and 35 fighters from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), allied with Ankara, have been killed in the northern Iraq campaign since Sept. 23, the official said. Fifty soldiers and 140 KDP members were also injured.

It was the first time the Turkish side had announced its official losses. The figures could not be confirmed independently.

Turkish F-16 and F-4 war planes pounded PKK positions inside Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq Sunday, military sources across the border in southeast Turkey said.

"The operation is continuing very successfully. Coordination between our troops and the KDP is excellent," General Cetin Dogan, commander of the Turkish forces fighting in northern Iraq, told Anatolian.

The pro-PKK private television station Med-TV, broadcasting from Europe via satellite and monitored in southeast Turkey, said for its part that the PKK was successfully resisting the Turkish offensive.

Nearly 15,000 Turkish troops, backed by tanks, artillery and helicopters, are carrying out an offensive in northern Iraq together with the KDP to wipe out PKK rear bases.

Anatolian said the main PKK bases of Zab, Khaftanin, Sinath and Mateen had been captured by Turkish troops.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said Friday that Ankara's military presence in northern Iraq was not permanent, but necessary to counter the "negative effect of the current power vacuum" after Baghdad had lost control of the region in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war.

Since then, northern Iraq has been controlled by the KDP and a rival Iraqi Kurd group.

The Turkish incursion followed heavy fighting between the PKK and the KDP, which has been allied with Ankara since the last Turkish military campaign in northern Iraq in May, when 30,000 troops poured into the region.

## Hamas prisoners in Gaza launch hunger strike

GAZA (R) — Members of Hamas jailed by the Palestinian National Authority launched an open-ended hunger strike on Sunday, they said in a statement.

"The battle for the empty stomach is either martyrdom or freedom," the prisoners said in a statement faxed to Solidarity International, a human rights group based in Washington with a branch in the Gaza Strip.

It said more than 70 Hamas detainees in prison in Gaza for some 20 months were taking part in the hunger strike.

The prisoners were rounded up during a Palestinian crackdown after a spate of Islamist bombings in 1996 against Israel, Hamas officials said.

## Jordan receives invitation to MENA

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh on Sunday received a Qatari invitation to attend the Doha economic summit which will be held in November. The invitation was delivered to Dr. Tarawneh hy the Qatari charge d'affaires in Amman.

## Inmates set Turkish prison on fire

ANKARA (AFP) — Prisoners protesting against a plan by the Turkish justice ministry to move several inmates from an Istanhul jail on Sunday set the prison on fire, the Anatolia news agency reported. Firefighters later hrought the hlaze under control in the Bayrampasa prison on Istanhul's European side, hut security forces were unable to enter the dormitories because of resistance by rioting inmates, it said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

## Algeria and South Africa in arms deal

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — South African armsmaker Denel has clinched a deal to supply Algeria with military equipment worth $17 million, Johanneshurg's Sunday Independent reported. The newspaper said the deal includes the supply of a Seeker remote-piloted vehicle and a pilotless plane equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance equipment. The Algerian authorities will use the equipment in their fight against Islamist rehels, the report added.

## Bahrain jails three for setting bus on fire

MANAMA (R) — Three Bahrain Shiite Muslims have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to four years for an arson attack, local newspapers said on Sunday. The state security court sentenced Mohammad Youssuf Ahdulwahab to four years jail, Sayyed Hashim Taj Hashim to two years and Mahmoud Ahmad Daif to one year. The three were found guilty of setting a private hus ablaze in a Bahraini village, the papers said. Two Bahraini women received a three-month suspended sentence and were fined 50 dinars each for taking part in anti-government gatherings.

## UAE seizes Iraqi Kurd illegal immigrants for first time

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Border and coast guards in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have seized 18 people, including Iraqi Kurds, as they tried to sneak into the country, newspapers said Sunday. Security officials said it was the first time that Iraqi Kurds were caught trying to enter the country illegally. "They came by sea from Iran and tried to enter Ras Al Khaimah from the mountains," a security official said.

# Israel's military chief visits Turkey for planned manoeuvres, arms sales

ANKARA (AFP) — Israel's top military commander arrived here Sunday for talks with Turkish leaders on planned joint manoeuvres and potential sales of Israeli military equipment to Turkey.

General Amnon Shahak, Israel's chief-of-staff, is expected to meet his Turkish counterpart General Ismail Hakki Karadayi as well as President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and defence industry officials during his stay in Turkey until Wednesday, sources from both countries said.

Planned naval exercises between Turkey, Israel and the U.S. and Israel's efforts to sell weapons, including tanks, missile systems and early warning aircraft to the Turkish armed forces will be high on his agenda, they said.

Gen. Shahak's trip is the latest in a series of top military visits between Turkey and Israel this year and comes amid developing defence ties. Gen. Karadayi visited Israel in February, followed by former Defence Minister Turhan Tayan in May.

After decades of dormant relations during the Arab-Israeli conflict, Ankara and Israel last year boosted ties to a strategic level, signing two pacts on military and defence industry cooperation.

The controversial military manoeuvres this November between Turkey, Israel and the U.S. in the eastern Mediterranean were postponed last month following angry reaction from Arab states and Iran.

But the Turkish military said in late September that the exercises would be held before the end of 1997.

Under last year's military cooperation deal, Israeli pilots have been conducting training flights in Turkish airspace and Turkish pilots are receiving electronic warfare training in Israel.

And in the largest defence industry deal between the two countries, an Israeli company is upgrading Turkey's F-4 fighter fleet for $630 million. The two countries have agreed to jointly produce Israeli-designed Popeye air-to-ground missiles for the Turkish air force.

Israel is also willing to upgrade Turkey's U.S.-made M60 tanks and sell its Merkava III tanks, Arrow ground-to-air and Python air-to-air missiles and airborne early warning aircraft to Ankara.

Iran and several Arab countries, most notably Syria, have charged that closer Turkish-Israeli ties would target Arab interests, although Ankara and Tel Aviv deny such suggestions.

CARRIER INTO GULF: A U.S. aviation boatswain, mate 3rd class, installs a catapult track slot seal into catapult number one, during launch and recovery operations aboard the U.S. Navy carrier USS Nimitz as the carrier neared the Arabian Gulf. The aircraft carrier moved into the Gulf Sunday for operations near Iraq's volatile border with Iran (Reuters photo)

# Sign-up of runners for 13th Parliament closes

(Continued from page 1)

launch of a new democratisation process, in 1989.

Three out of 17 political parties are fielding candidates: The pro-government National Constitutional Party (NCP) — 12 candidates; the left-wing Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party (JUDP) — four candidates; and the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party (JABSP) — two candidates.

All three parties are fielding their top leaders: Abdul Hadi Majali (NCP, Karak), Issa Madanat (JUDP, Third District), and Khalil Haddadin (JABSP, Third District).

The Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front, which was represented by 15 deputies in the 12th Parliament, declared in July their boycott of the upcoming elections.

Another nine smaller parties, the union of the professional associations and two groups of popular independent personalities are also boycotting the polls, both in candidacy and voting.

# Final list of candidates for parliamentary polls

**AMMAN 1ST DISTRICT**
*Three Muslim seats*

Aysha Khawaja Al Razem, Abdul Haleem Khalayleh, Ahmad Alawaisheh, Fakher Kayyali, Fakhri Aqrabawi, Ghaleb Dmour, Hamadah Fara'neh, Hammad Abu Jamous, Jamal Abu Yahia, Khaled Qanawi, Khalil Hussein Atiyyeh, Mohammad Artemah, Mukhlis Odeh, Nahhar Artemeh, Rashid Baraiseh, Saleh Ali Rihal, Salem Hidhan, Theih Abdullah, Yousef Abdullat, Zuheir Al Aza, Marwan Diri, Nayel Al Wada'an.

**AMMAN 2ND DISTRICT**
*Three Muslim seats*

Abdul Majeed Aqtash, Ali Musa Zir, Fathi Jaradat, Jamal Ma'lawani, Jasser Ma'aiteh, Khalil Obeidi, Khalil Mara'i, Mohammad Di'jah, Mohammad Wahsh, Mohammad Mahasiri, Mohammad Thweih, Mohammad Kouz, Mohammad Yousef Mabidin, Omar Hamlan, Yousef 'Ajouri, Yacoub Kiswani.

**AMMAN 3RD DISTRICT**
*One Circassian/Chechen, one Christian, three Muslim seats*

Ali Abul Ragheb, Emily Naffa', Fathi Sobar, Khalil Barakat, Hakim Jarrar, Khalil Haddadin, Lutfi Barghouti, Issa Madanat, Mohammad Keir Keilani, Mohammad Sa'eed, Munther Halaseh, Nayef Moulah, Odeh Qawas, Ra'ed Baqri, Tareq Humeidi, Toujan Feisal, Farah Rabadi, Norma Nastara, Mazen Riyal.

**AMMAN 4TH DISTRICT**
*Two Muslim seats*

Abdul Hadi Abu Hammad, Ali Abdul Hadi Shkeir, Ali Zioud, Barjes Hadeed, Fatimah Abu Hassaneh, Hamad Saleh Abu Zeid, Hosni Babya, Kamel Abul Teen, Mohammad Huneiti, Majed Nasser, Nasser Huneiti, Saleh Zioud, Sami Abu Zeid, Ibrahim Tahrawi, Zakaria Atshan.

**AMMAN 5TH DISTRICT**
*One Circassian/Chechen, four Muslim seats*

Abdul Haleem Manaseer, Abdul Hameed Afeashat, Abdullah Sleikat, Ahmad Ajarmeh, Ahmad Nahar, Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, Ahmad Suleiman Abbadi, Assaf Assaf, Ata Shahwan, Bassem Muheirat, Dahoud Daratkeh, Fardous Masri, Hiam Kalimat, Jamal Ensour, Khalil Isma'il Sobar, Khamis Lawzi, Leila Faisal, Lutfi Deirbani, Mahmoud Bino, Mohammad Abdul Hadi Ajarmeh, Mohammad Abdul Karim Oneirat, Mohammad Abu Hudeib, Mohammad Awwad Nu'aimat, Mohammad Disi, Mohammad Khammash, Mohammad Mahmoud Qura'an, Mohammad Mustafa Adwan, Mohammad Oneirat, Mohammad Shahwan, Mohammad Thawaibeh, Mohammed Ajarmeh, Mohammed Hussein Abbadi, Mohammed Yousef Abbadi, Mouloud Sobar, Mufdi Ajarmeh, Munir Sobar, Samir Abdul Karim Sukkar, So'ud Khabaibeh, So'ud Zubeidi, Yousef Abdul Hafez Shahwan, Zeid Sharaia.

**JERASH**
*Two Muslim seats*

Abdul Rahman Khawaldeh, Abdullah Khawaldeh, Ahmad Khawaldeh, Ali Hassan Kayed Attoum, Ali Qoqaza, Ali Rawashdeh, Amin Khawaldeh, Atef Edeibat, Haidar Bani Mustafa, Hussein Marzouq, 'Iqab Barmawi, Khalaf Khawaldeh, Khalaf Mahasneh, Khalil Kara'an, Mahmoud Khalil Attoum, Malek Rai, Mifleh Ruheimi, Mohammad Ayasrah, Mohammad Zboun, Mohammed Makableh, Riadh Da'oud Othman, Sayel Mahasneh, Yasser Rawashdeh.

**MAFRAQ**
*Three Muslim seats*

Abdul Karim Dughmi, Abdullah Akhou Rsheideh, Abdullah Basbous, Ahmad Alimat, Ghanem Abu Rbeia, Hazem Zou'bi, Ibrahim Hisban Emmoush, Issa Khawaldeh, Jreid Khawaldeh, Majed Abu Oleim, Mohammad Abu Oleim, Nawaf Faris Khawaldeh, Nawaf Itan, Taha Khawaldeh, Turki Khazaleh, Turki Mifleh Shdeifat, Turki Akhou Rsheida.

**NORTHERN BEDOUINS**
*Two Mulsim seats*

Abdullah Srour, Adouh Otein, Deifallah Keiber, Faris Qadi, Fayez Fadel Madi, Mahdi Sbeidi, Mohammad Khaldi, Mohammad Athamat, Mohammad Muarar, Mohammad Breik, Mohammad Soud Qadi, Odeh Trman, Saed Hayel Srour, Sweilem Safian, Zayed Arab Own.

**TAFILEH**
*Three Muslim seats*

Ahmad Salman, Abdul Rahim Khreisat, Abdullah Akaileh, Fahmi Rbeihat, Ibrahim Jfout, Mahmoud Zidaneen, Mamdouh Rfu'a, Mohammad Ouran, Mohammad Qatatsheh, Mohammad Shbeilat, Mousa Msa'adin, Odeh Sawalqah, Qussay Mahasneh, Rateb Sa'oud, Sattam Awad, Sudqi Shbatat, Yahia Khawaldeh.

**ZARQA**
*One Circassian/Chechen, one Christian, four Muslim seats*

Ahmad Qaddoumi, Ahmad Saleh, Atta Abdul Hafedh, Adnan Mira'i, Bassem Tubasi, Zhudi Qamar, Fayyad Jarar, Fouad Khalafat, Hmoud Khalileh, Imad Abu Suneimih, Jamal Fuqeh, Khaled Ma'noun, Mahfoudh Mohammad Abu Mahfoudh, Makhlad Zawareh, Mahmoud Hoseh, Mahmoud Majafreh, Mahsen Abu Qurma, Jamil Qandah, Marwan Ersheid, Majed Abu Nasser, Marzouq Dajeh, Mohammed Raja Shomali, Nuffan Abu Hweiri, Sameeh Qariuti, Sabah Anati, Ma'rouf Quseini, Deifallah Emmoush, Tayseer Karkar, Talal Rimahi, Tuhaimer Zyud, Yahia Oteibi, Younis Dawaimeh, Zuhdi Qamar, Mohammad Qussous, Bassam Haddadin, Abdul Baqi Gammo, Abdul Jalil Shishani, Ahmad Mousa Adel Shishani, Kamel Ramadan Shishani, Mansour Sefeddin Murad, Mohammed Taha Arslan, Yousef Munereddin.

**MADABA**
*One Christian, two Muslim seats*

Fouzan Ajaleen, Hmoud Abu Kaoud, Jamal Rawahneh, Sharif Rawajfeh, Ahmad Froukh, Nayef Ma'noun, Abdul Hafez Shakanbeh, Abdul Rahim Ma'aieh, Ali Abu Rbeiha, Ali Hrout, Ishaq Jaarah, Ibrahim Breizat, Khalaf Abu Hanieh, Mohammad Salem Shawabkah, Mohammed Abu Kaf, Mohammed Khreibat Azaideh, Mousa Bajali, Nadeem Twal, Nash'at Hamarneh, Sanad Haddadin, Saleh Khawatreh, Shafiq Zawaideh, Suheil Fakhri Twal, Suleiman Sa'aidat, Awad Rawajeeh, Deifallah Haddad.

**AQABA**
*Two Muslim seats*

Ahmad Hararah, Da'ad Sultan Tamimi, Hashim Abu Aysheh, Mohammad Saed, Mohammed Badri, Mohammed Yousef, Mousa Khdeyer, Saeed Amro, Yousef Ryati, Ziad Shweikh.

**AJLOUN**
*One Christian, two Muslim seats*

Abdul Hafiz Momani, Abdul Karim Ananzeh, Abdul Rahman Btoush, Abdul Salam Ghazawi, Abdullah Freihat, Ahmad Annab, Ahmad Qudah, Ahmad Siyouf, Ahmad Smadi, Ali Zghul, Bassam Haddad, Fadel Freihat, Falah Qudah, Farouk Abu Inab, Hani Qudah, Hazem Momani, Jamal Haddad, Mazen Rabadi, Mohammad Abu Sini, Mohammad Kheir Shweiat, Mohammad Kheir Smadi, Mohammad Momani, Mohammad Qudah, Munib Zghoul, Munir Ayyoub, Nabil Maqtash, Naji Maqtash, Nasser Abu Sini, Nasser Rabadi, Nawal Momani, Nidal Momani, Noor Khatatbeh, Ridah Haddad, Ryad Smadi, Samir Qudah, Wadee' Zawaideh, Yacoub Rabadi, Yousef Rabadi, Yousef Bader, Zaki Bader.

**BALQA**
*Six Muslim, two Christian seats*

Abdul Razaq Ensour, Ahmad Habasheen, Ahmad Mashahreh, Ahmad Salem Atyyat, Ajayeb Hudayres, Ali Dayafleh, Ali Shatti, Bassam Manaseer, Bassam Abu Rumman, Fahed Na'im, Fawaz Salaheen, Fawzi Tueimeh, Fayez Rabee', Ghaleb Abu Orabi, Ghaleb Zou'bi, Hanna A'raj, Hashem Dabbas, Hashem Fa'aouri, Hassan Dayyat, Hatem Salameh, Hilmi Abu Milhem, Ibrahim Awamleh, Izzat Rashrash, Jihad Abu Ajmyeh, Kamal Jreisat, Khader Illwan, Mahmoud Kharabsheh, Mashhour Tweikat Ahbadi, Mohammad Amayreh, Mohammad Ja'arat, Mohammad Sabri Mousa, Mohammad Saleh, Mohammad Shebly, Mustapha Shneikat, Nabil Harsh, Nahed Hattar, Rakan Fa'our, Rateb Makamrah, Sa'id Ghananeem, Sa'oud Adwan, Saed Alaween, Salem Hyyari, Samir Kawar, Sayel Masalha, Suleiman Jahran, Yaqoub Zeitoun, Youssef Joud El Haq, Zaidan Adwan.

**KARAK**
*Seven Muslim, two Christian seats*

Abdul Hadi Majali, Abdul Karim Qatawneh, Abdul Rahman Khataineh, Abdul Rasheed Ma'aiteh, Abdul Salam Btoush, Abdullah Zureiqat, Ahmad Abu Amr, Ahmad Kasasbeh, Akef Ma'aytah, Amjad Hazza Majali, Atallah O'neh, Awwad Khleifat, Ayed Adayleh, Duei' Mahadeen, Fathi Abdul Aziz Rawashdeh, Ghaleb Ali Assasfeh, Hafeetha Ma'aitah, Hamed Deirat, Inad Nawaiseh, Jamil Hushoush, Khaldoun Mawajdeh, Khaled Tarawneh, Maher Haddadin, Mahmoud Hweimel, Majed Majali, Majed Qaralleh, Makram Qusous, Mansour Ben Tareef, Mazen Akasheh, Mohammad Amr, Mohammad Bawat, Mohammad Hawali, Mousa Ajareen, Mousa Ma'aiteh, Mufreh Ma'aiteh, Nasr Honeideh, Nazih Amareen, Ra'ed Ibrahim Hijazin, Radwan Jaa'rat, Rakan Majali, Rateb Qaralleh, Riyad Hroub, Riyad Sarairah, Rizaq Ma'aiteh, Saber Rawashdeh, Salem Matameh, Siham Bayaidah, Tawfiq Hijazeen, Yousef Ja'afreh, Yousef Khatbah.

**IRBID**
*One Christian, eight Muslim seats*

Abdul Karim Shamawi, Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh, Abdul Rahman Saqer, Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, Abdullah Akeil Kharashqeh, Adib Salem Farah, Ahmad Abu Kheit, Ahmad Ajlouni, Ahmad Akash, Ahmad Hayajneh, Ahmad Jadayah, Ahmad Eid Othman, Ali Eid Safrah, Anwar Azzam, Atif Mashriqi, Aysha Abu Salem, Bassam Omari, Faleh Gharaibeh, Ghazi Shloul, Hafez Rabee', Hassan Jaradat, Hassan Sqour, Hosni Shayyab, Idris Azzam, Kamel Omari, Kaseem Ta'ani, Khalaf Jarrah, Latifeh Azzah, Mahmoud Hamdan, Mahmoud Mheidat, Majed Ababneh, Majed Azzam, Majed Qura'an, Majed Rjoub, Majeed Hatamleh, Marwan Andraws, Mazen Marji, Mohammad Sharaa, Mohammad Alawneh, Mohammad Awad Bataineh, Mohammad Fatah Tbeib, Mohammad Mousa Bani Hani, Mohammad Tawfiq Nasser, Mu'een Marashdeh, Nashaat Jarah, Nathmi Abu Libdeh, Raji Noor Haddad, Saed Abu Irmeileh, Saleh Shanaq, Samihah Tel, Sami Khasawneh, Subhi Qawasmeh, Taye' Jarrah, Tayseer Nseirat, Tu'meh Abu Sha'er, Wajih Azayzeh, Waleed Tahtamouni, Younis Jamrah, Zayed Radaideh, Ziad Araj, Zeidan Faisal Sharairi.

**KOURAH AND NORTH GHOR DISTRICT**
*Two Muslim seats*

Ali Faqeer, Ali Milhem, Bilal Bani Yassin, Faisal Saqer, Ghaleb Riahneh, Hamad Ghazawi, Hatem Ghazawi, Ibrahim Rashdan, Mahmoud Abbadi, Mahmoud Abu Abtah, Mahmoud Ghazawi, Mijhem Abu Mdeires, Mohammad Bani Abdul Rahman, Mahmoud Keilani, Mohammad Oleimi, Mohammad Bishtawi, Nader Thuheirat, Nawaf Amiri, Sa'ed Bishtawi, Talal Ghazawi, Yahya Bani Younis, Za'eem Ayyadi, Zuhair Suleiman, Mahmoud Kafameh, Yousef Shreideh, Mohammad Hammouri, Ali Darawsheh.

**RAMTHA AND BANI KINANEH**
*Three Muslim seats*

Abdullah Irsheidat, Deifallah Zou'bi, Faisal Abdul Aziz, Faisal Bashabsheh, Fatimah Obeidat, Fawaz Zou'bi, Fayez Khaza'leh, Ghazi Obeidat, Hashem Shboul, Hilmi Tawalbeh, Mawfaq Abu Sheikh, Mohammad Bashabsheh, Omar Roussan, Osama Malkawi, Saleh Daraiseh, Sultan Khatib, Taleh Shihab, Zuhair Safadi.

**MA'AN**
*Three Muslim seats*

Abdullah Habahbeh, Ahmad Abu Okleh, Ahmad Alayah, Ahmad Hasanat, Akram Kreishan, Ghazi Torsi, Hisham Sharari, Jasser Ma'ani, Khaled Arar, Majed Abu Farah, Mohammad Ghanmeen, Mohammad Rawashdeh, Nayef Hilalat, Okleh Khleifat, Ramadan Ismail, Walid Ojan.

**CENTRAL BEDOUINS**
*Two Muslim seats*

Ahmad Bani Sakher, Badi Rudeini, Darweesh Satel, Deifallah Mansour Ziben, Deifallah Mitlek Ziben, Fayez Dahamsheh, Ghazi Fayez, Hayel Zein, Jamal Khreisha, Jamil Jahawsheh, Lafi Ziben, Mohammad Hukeish, Mohammad Ziben, Odeh Hmoud, Riyad Abu Tayeb, S'oud Zuhair, Saleh Jbour, Shayesh Khreishah, Soud Khannan, Wisaf Ka'abneh.

**SOUTHERN BEDOUINS**
*Two Muslim seats*

Abdullah Jazi, Ahmad Abu Khalil, Ali Mohammad Nueimat, Ali Nueimat, Awad Salem Abu Tayeh, Bakhit Manay'ah, Faleh Mara'yeh, Khalaf Rawajfeh, Misha'al Abu Tayeh, Mohammad Najadat, Nazzal Rukeibat, Ruweid Sa'edyeen, Salem Jazi, Salem Zawaideh, Sayel Rashaydeh, Smour Huweitat, Yusra Jazi.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**JORDAN TELEVISION**
*Tel. 773111-19*

**PROGRAMME TWO**

14:10....A Show With the Mouse
14:30 Cowboys of the Moo Mesa
15:00 .....Gillette Sports Special
15:30 .....Riding High
16:00 .....Animal Show
16:30 .....Ocean Girl
17:15 .....French Programmes
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15.....French programme
19:30 .....News Headline
19:35 .....Neighbours
20:00 ....Comedy — Murphy Brown
20:30 .....Babylon 5
21:10 .....Highlander
22:00 ..... News in English
22:30 .....Emergency Room
23:15 .....Homicide
23:59 .....End of T.X.

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:16.....Fajr
05:33 ..... .(Sunrise) Duha
11:22.....Dhuhr'
14:38.....'Asr
17:11.....Maghreb
18:11.....'Isha

**CHURCHES**

**St. Mary of Nazareth Church** Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
**Assemblies of God Church** Tel. 632785.
**St. Joseph Church** Tel. 624590
**Church of the Annunciation** Tel. 637440.
**De la Salle Church** Tel. 661757.
**Terra Sancta Church** Tel. 622366
**Anglican Church** Tel. 652826.
**Armenian Catholic Church** Tel. 771331.
**Armenian Orthodox Church** Tel. 775261.
**St. Ephraim Church** Tel. 771751.
**Amman International Church** Tel. 5516245
**Evangelical Lutheran Church** Tel. 824328.
**German-speaking Evangelical Congregation** Tel. 688404
**The Latter-Day Saints** Tel. 654932.
**Church of Nazarene** Tel. 675691.
**The Evangelical Local Church in Amman** Tel. 811295 English-speaking
**Latin Catholics Parish** Tel. 614190.

**WEATHER**

*Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology*

Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures rising further, clouds appearing at high altitudes, and winds easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

**Min./Max. temp.**

**Amman**.....17/33
**Aqaba**.....23/35
**Deserts**.....15/34
**Jordan Valley**.....20/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

**AMMAN:**
**Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh** .....736011
**Dr. Tawfiq Qub'ain** .....623029
**Dr. Khaldoun Asfour** .....699440
**Dr. Hisham Kan'an** .....790286
Firas pharmacy .....661912
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336
Al Asema pharmacy .....637055
Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660
Najih pharmacy .....847632

**IRBID:**
**Dr. Fawzi Abul Haija** ....252970
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)

**ZARQA:**
**Dr. Akram Haddad** .....985550
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department .....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept..... 630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints ...897467
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121
Overseas Calls .....010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs..... 661101
Jordan Television .....773111
Radio Jordan .....774111
Water Authority .....680100
J. Electricity Authority .....815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information ..08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

**HOSPITALS**

**AMMAN:**
Luzmila .....630195
Hussein Medical Centre ....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity..... 644281/6
Akileh Maternity.....642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ...642362
Malhas, J. Amman. .....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131
University Hospital .....845845
Al-Muasher Hospital ....667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali ....666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ....777101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka .....891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital ...602240/50
Amal Hospital .....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

**ZARQA:**
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital .....(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....(09)990990

**IRBID:**
Princess Basma Hospital .....(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital .....(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital .....(02)247100

**AQABA:**
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

*This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700).*

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**
07:05 .....Damascus (RJ)
07:30 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)
08:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)
09:20 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:25.....Beirut (RJ)
16:15 .....Cairo (RJ)
16:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:50 .....Kuwait (RJ)
18:10 ..... London, Milan (RJ)
18:30.....Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:15 Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
02:45 .....Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
04:10 Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)

**Other Flights**
09:30 .....Al 'Arish (PF)
09:45 .....Khartoum (SD)
13:10 .....Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
14:05 .....Vienna (OS)
15:50 .....Doha (QR)
19:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)
20:10 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:15.....Cairo (MS)
22:30 .....Athens (OA)
00:20 ....Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)

**Royal Wings (RW)**
06:05 .....Tel Aviv (RW)
07:25 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)
07:15 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
09:50 .....Aqaba (RW)
11:10 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)
12:00 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
21:20 .....Aqaba (RW)
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

**DEPARTURES**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**
05:35 .....Beirut (RJ)
11:20 .....Kuwait (RJ)
11:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:15 .....Cairo (RJ)
12:25 .....London (RJ)
12:35 .....Frankfurt (RJ)
20:45 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:05 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:25 Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:45 .....Sanaa (RJ)
23:00 .....Damascus (RJ)
07:00 .....Aqaba (add) (RJ)

**Other Flights**
08:00 .....Beirut (ME)
08:10 .....London (BA)
10:30 .....Al 'Arish (PF)
11:00 .....Khartoum (GF)
14:00 .....Bahrain (GF)
14:50 .....Vienna (OS)
16:50 .....Doha (QR)
20:10 .....Tel Aviv (LY)
22:15.....Cairo (MS)
22:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)
01:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)
03:00.....Athens (OA)

**Royal Wings (RW)**
05:30 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
06:50 .....Tel Aviv (RW)
07:55 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)
08:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
10:20 .....Aqaba (RW)
11:40 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)
20:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:50 .....Aqaba (RW)

MINISTER RECEIVES PAKISTANI DELEGATION: Minister of Justice Riyadh Shaka'a Sunday receives a Pakistani judiciary delegation representing the Islamic Shariaa Academy at the International Islamic University. Mr. Shaka'a and the delegation, headed by Ma'arouf Shirazi, discussed channels of cooperation and coordination in judicial fields. Eid Lawzi, the ministry's secretary general, also held talks with the visiting delegation and gave a tour of the new Palace of Justice (Petra photo)

# Prime minister examines election operations room

## Large voter turnout expected for election — Rashid

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday visited the Ministry of Interior and inspected the central operations room created by the ministry for the upcoming general elections.

Dr. Majali was briefed on the preparations concerning the ballot boxes, the distribution of voter cards, the work of committees, and other details concerning the electoral districts.

Dr. Majali was told that the total number of registered eligible voters was 1,890,035, of whieb 573,000 persons have already received their voter cards.

He was also informed that 533 candidates have already registered to run in the Nov. 4 event.

Meanwhile, Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid said in a newspaper interview published Sunday that the government will not interfere in the general elections, nor is it siding with one group or party.

He told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan that he believed there will be a large turnout by voters on election day, "because the people got fed up with the 'rejectionists' who are boycotting the elections and who will realise that they were wrong and pay a price for their absence from the [political] arena.

"We have finalised our preparations for the elections, which will be transparent, fair, and free," stated the minister, who said the government is offering all the necessary facilities for the candidates and is open for any queries on election-related matters.

Commenting on the decision by certain political groups to boycott the elections, the minister said "these groups declared their boycott at an early stage and tried to impose their terms on the government."

He said 400,000 people registered for the first time to take part in the elections this year, raising the number of registered eligible voters to nearly two million, up from 1.5 million in the 1993 elections.

Mr. Rashid said it should be clear that the government is not fielding its own list of Islamists to run as independents in the elections, adding that "with all frankness, the government has made no such plans and we do not have any lists of Islamists or others, and we regard the opposition as a basic component that deserves respect."

Referring to the one-person, one-vote election system, the minister said it was approved by a majority in Parliament before the 1993 elections, adding that democracy means the minority should respect the views of the majority.

The government has given political parties until the end of this year to adjust to regulations on all financial and other matters, according to the minister.

"We have served them notice to comply with the Political Parties Law, because we know that some of these parties are merely extensions of political groups abroad and that some of their funds come to them from outside Jordan," he stated.

The minister noted that some of these parties have been violating the law, as some of them have no addresses, no registers, and no offices, while others operate from their homes and through their private telephones.

"The Political Parties Law should be amended to include a clause requiring a party to have at least 500 members at the founding level, so that political life can be taken more seriously," Mr. Rashid added.

Referring to the Press and Publications Law, the minister noted that "some people believe the Ministry of Interior was behind the enactment of this law, which is totally untrue."

The government has the right to introduce any temporary law, in accordance with Article 194 of the Constitution, he said.

Mr. Rashid disclosed that groups opposed to normalisation of relations with Israel two months ago tried to organise a conference to be attended by at least 300 people, but only 80 persons attended.

"The Jordan-Israel peace treaty was approved by a national congress and endorsed by Parliament, but we do not impose normalisation on anyone, nor do we call for it, but we have to consider the Jordanian people's relations with their kinsmen in the West Bank and the Palestinians living inside Israel," stressed the minister.

Referring to security affairs, he said "Jordan's security is not subject to compromise and we regard security as a red line that should not be crossed by anyone."

Commenting on the failed attempt on the life of Khaled Misha'al, the Hamas office director in Amman, the minister said "we reject the attempt in form and content."

"Those behind such attacks will pay dearly should they make another attempt," he added.

Referring to those who shot at Israeli embassy officials, the minister said "the perpetrators' statement after the attack was a falsehood, because there is no such organisation in Jordan with that name. We have gathered important information on the car used in the attack and we hope to resolve the mystery surrounding it soon and arrest the assailants.

"The attackers are not professionals and all that I can say is that we now hold the leading lines and are confident of the results of our investigations," he stated.

# Man receives 20-year sentence for smuggling drugs to Israel

By Rana Husseini
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — A 41-year-old man was sentenced Sunday by the State Security Court to a 20-year imprisonment term with hard labour after he was found guilty of complicity with international gangs to smuggle drugs into Israel.

Nasser Ali, a Wadi Araha resident, originally received the death sentence, a verdict immediately commuted by the military court tribunal "because he had no past criminal record and deserves a second chance."

Mr. Ali, who pleaded not guilty to the charge, was also ordered to pay JD10,000 in fines by the court, which was presided over by Judge Colonel Yousef Faouri and Judges Lieutenant Col. Aref Syouf and Major Salem Sa'oudi.

According to court documents, Mr. Ali met with an Arab Israeli man in 1995, who introduced him to a man from Beir Sabe' identified only as Abu Khalil, "and the three agreed to smuggle heroin from Turkey to Israel via Jordan."

The three travelled to Istanbul, where they met with a group of Turkish people, and agreed to smuggle nine kilogrammes of heroin from Turkey to Israel. Mr. Ali's mission was to store the drugs until they were to be smuggled to Israel, the court said.

Mr. Ali was apprehended in the town of Huwara in Irbid on June 4, 1997, by Anti-Narcotic Department undercover agents, who posed as the runners that would smuggle the drugs from Jordan to Israel.

Also Sunday, the same military tribunal sentenced ten people to prison terms ranging from one to 12 years with hard labour, and ordered them to pay fines ranging from JD1,000 to JD10,000 after being convicted of smuggling drugs to Saudi Arabia.

The same court acquitted eight other people the prosecution charged belonged to the same group of 23 people, of whom five were tried and sentenced in absentia.

The group was charged by State Security Prosecutor Captain Mahmoud Hiyasat of possessing, trafficking, and smuggling heroin.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the group began their illegal activities in 1995 by smuggling 3,000 pills to Saudi Arabia from Jordan in tanks.

A year later, the group imported 60 kilogrammes of heroin from Turkey and started distributing it in the Kingdom through its members, until they were arrested in the Hassa area on Aug. 10, 1996, while attempting to sell heroin to undercover agents.

All verdicts will automatically be reviewed by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

# Traffic accidents kill 25 in one-week period — bulletin

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-five people were killed and 375 others injured in road accidents that occurred between Sept. 27 and Oct. 4, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department Sunday.

During this period, there were 691 road accidents, including 496 that involved collisions between vehicles and 102 cases of vehicles running over pedestrians, the bulletin said.

There were 25 more road accidents during this period than the same period last year, while the number of injured increased by 75 and deaths by 16, according to the bulletin.

Amman Governorate had the greatest number of these accidents, accounting for 56.3 per cent of the total number, followed by Zarqa, 10.7 per cent, and Irbid, 9.6 per cent, the bulletin stated.

The majority of injured people in these accidents, 21.3 per cent, were in the 10-20 age group, while 18.3 per cent were below the age of 10, according to the statistics.

Drivers between 21 and 30 years of age accounted for 40.3 per cent of the total number of drivers involved in the accidents, the bulletin noted.

Speeding, incorrect passing, and loss of control over the vehicles were the main causes of these accidents, the statement continued.

Meanwhile, the Civil Defence Department Sunday announced that it dealt with 125 accidents in the 24 hours before Sunday morning.

These accidents, which included nine cases of fires, resulted in 24 injuries and one death.

# Majali urges teachers to assume greater role in 'freedom and participation'

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday said teachers are the main instruments for translating the slogan of "freedom and participation" into practice and should assume their roles in realising this slogan.

At the opening session of a seminar entitled "The Teacher and Future Challenges," organised by the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation at the Royal Cultural Centre, Dr. Majali proposed convening weekly meetings by teachers with groups of up to 25 students to share ideas and discuss issues pertaining to the education process, with the students given the freedom to put forth ideas for discussion.

At such meetings, the prime minister said, both teachers and students would discuss various topics freely and offer suggestions, and also take part in the decision-making process of their respective schools.

From right to left Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Director Ibrahim Izzeddin, Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, and Former Deputy Prime Minister Said Tell attend the "Teacher and Future Challenges" seminar (Petra photo)

Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri called for a revision of legislation concerning the selection of teachers.

He said only distinguished and fit persons should be chosen for teaching.

Three working papers, "The Teacher and Social Changes," "The Teacher and the Challenge of Globalisation," and "Excellent Education," were reviewed by the participants, all educators from the public and private sectors.

# Queen Alia Fund, Spanish NGO offer development programmes for women

By Hind-Lara Mango
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — As a further step in the socio-economic advancement of women, the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), in cooperation with the Assembly Cooperation for Peace (PAZ), have embarked on joint projects for the development of women and the support of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Jordan.

The projects are currently being implemented in the governorates of Ma'an and Aqaba with the participation of 1,800 women. A total budget of $400,000 has been allocated to both projects, with QAF covering half the cost with in-kind contributions and PAZ, a Spanish NGO, contributing the balance until August 1998.

"The projects are being carried out in 16 QAF Centres, ten in Ma'an and six in Aqaba," said Hassan Ustah, director of the Social Development Department at the QAF.

He told the Jordan Times that these projects are targeting 5,000 beneficiaries, but for the time being 1,800 "peer leaders" are being trained.

"We hope that these peer leaders will act as mediators once they conclude their training, so they can reach the rest of women working at the grassroots level," Mr. Ustah explained.

The first project on women in development focuses on education, awareness, and training to help women in making decisions regarding their lives, families, and careers, he said.

Under this provision, the QAF offers women seminars and workshops on family planning, health, legal rights, and vocational training. The aim is to assist women in finding jobs and becoming independent, he stated.

The second project focuses on the support for NGOs in Jordan.

Mr. Ustah remarked that "NGOs stress the participation of grassroots [activists] in the formulation of development strategies that are relevant to the needs and living conditions of the communities concerned."

The priority here will be upgrading the administrative and managerial capabilities of developmental NGOs in the southern governorates, the director said.

This includes the development of technical capacities and higher coordination to avoid duplication in NGO work, he added.

"We stress the qualitative content of programmes and freeing up resources through greater efficiency to stretch their value," elaborated Mr. Ustah.

According to the director, the adoption by NGOs of more effective modes of communication with the grassroots participants encourages the latter to participate and cooperate in local community development and NGO-sponsored programmes.

The QAF, Mr. Ustah concluded, follows an integrated approach in its development policies. Women are usually the focus of projects and awareness and training are essential prerequisites in the institution of small-business ventures.

# U.S. donates JD1 million of insulin for diabetics, one-third of yearly need

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. government has donated insulin worth JD1 million to Jordanian diabetic patients, according to an Al Ra'i Arabic daily report quoting government sources in Amman.

The report said the donation was part of a commitment made by the U.S. administration to offer Jordan various assistance.

According to the sources, the insulin shipment, expected to arrive in a few days, accounts for one-third of the nearly JD3 million of insulin used annually in Jordan.

Insulin is considered a high-cost drug, which government-run pharmacies sometimes cannot keep in stock.

The donation comes in the wake of recent public complaints that insulin could not be found at government hospitals.

The announcement on the insulin donation coincided with the start of a nation-wide campaign by the Ministry of Health Sunday to raise public awareness of diabetes.

The one-month campaign will end Nov. 14, the International Day for Diabetes, and includes lectures, seminars, and media messages.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL**

* Dutch film "Oeroeg" and Belgian film "Toto Le Heros" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., respectively.

**LECTURE**

* "Administrative Reform in Jordan Between Theory and Application" by Dr. Yasser Al 'Udwan at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

**PLAY**

* Children's play "Shahrour and Traffic Rules" at the Rnyal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

**EXHIBITIONS**

* "Photo exhibition on the impact of sanctions imposed on Iraq at Hamourabi Art Gallery, until Oct. 14

* Works by Iraqi artist Ali Al-Ebadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 23 (Tel. 5537598).

* "The Project of the Essence, Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90's" at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.

* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Rihan Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658696/7), until Oct. 30.

* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterrània" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).

* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Kuwaiti prince conveys regards to King, Crown Prince**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received a cable conveying the good wishes of Kuwaiti Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah while flying through Jordanian airspace. Prince Saad wished the King and Prince Hassan continued good health and the Jordanian people further progress and development. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali also received a cable from the Kuwaiti emir.

**Joint Jordanian-Syrian water commission meets**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee for Water Resources Sunday held a meeting, during which they discussed implementing agreements on launching joint investments on the Yarmouk River. The meeting, which was held at the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), also reviewed the procedures of building Al Wihda Dam and the need for protecting water resources. Chairing the meeting were JVA Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh and the Syrian Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Barakat Hadid.

UNIVERSITY FAIR

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE

*Tuesday, October 14, 1997*
*from 17:00 - 20:00*
*The Marriott Hotel, Amman*

*Participating Colleges/Universities:*

American University of Paris
Amer School of Liberal Arts/Regents College, London
Franklin College Switzerland
Richmond, American Univ. of London
Univ. Maryland, Germany
Webster Univ. Geneva, Vienna, Leiden, London

# Workers clash with police in central China

BEIJING (AFP) — About 1,000 demonstrators and workers from state-owned factories have clashed with police in the central Chinese city of Zigong, a U.S.-based rights group said in a statement Sunday.

The clashes erupted Friday in the Sichuan province town after 300 people went on strike at the No. 2 Radio Factory, Human Rights in China said.

A police spokesman confirmed by telephone that unemployed workers had demonstrated in the city's streets Friday against a court decision to declare several state enterprises bankrupt.

He did not say how many people took part, and did not confirm the reports of violence.

Human Rights in China said about 50 anti-riot police and more than 200 policemen broke up the demonstrations after the protesters blocked a major highway intersection on the edge of the city of three million residents.

The strikers were joined by sympathisers swelling the number to about 1,000 and traffic was stopped for five hours from midday, the group said.

Some workers were briefly detained by police, the New York-based group added.

According to Human Rights in China, the workers were protesting their low monthly salaries of 50 to 100 yuan ($6 to $12), which sometimes were not paid. They were also angry that no health insurance claims had been paid in two years.

The workers called on the local authorities to support them in their demands, but when they received no reply, they decided to take their campaign onto the streets.

The 15th Communist Party Congress last month adopted biting reforms outlined by President Jiang Zemin to streamline the debt-burdened, lumbering state sector which are expected to throw millions out of work.

But Mr. Jiang warned the cutbacks were necessary to introduce a shareholding system and allow failing companies to go bankrupt would cause hardship and unemployment. "With the deepening of enterprise reforms ... it will be hard to avoid the flow of personnel and lay-offs," Mr. Jiang said.

He also indicated that the days when Chinese workers could expect the state to provide them with a living were over. Premier Li Peng has admitted that unemployed workers were finding it hard to find new jobs and admitted that some regions were experiencing problems with public order.

Troubles have broken out several times in recent months in Sichuan, the most populated province in China with 100 million residents.

In September, Human Rights in China said there had been clashes between police after the licences of some of the push-bike drivers in Dujiangyan were revoked, preventing them from using their adapted vehicles to transport goods.

In July, thousands of workers laid off when three Mianyang state enterprises declared bankruptcy took to the streets charging that unemployment funds had been embezzled and demanding compensation.

These reports are never mentioned in the official Chinese press, and only come to light via dissidents abroad.

French President Jacques Chirac makes a point during the final press conference to close the Council of Europe's second summit. Chirac denied that a surprise plan for France, Germany and Russia to hold annual summits meant they would become a directorate leading post-cold war Europe (Reuter photo)

# Council of Europe seeks wider role on European stage

STRASBOURG (AFP) — The Council of Europe, the continent's long-dormant human rights watchdog, stepped centre stage after the conclusion of a successful 40-nation summit whose ultimate objective is to weld 800 million citizens into a single, coherent society.

Twenty-one presidents and 19 prime ministers affirmed the council's standard-setting role in matters of democracy and human rights among which, for the first time, the right to work was featured prominently.

The French organisers of the two-day summit stressed its psychological importance in bringing older and newer — for which read: Western and post-Communist — members together on an equal footing as part of a single family.

Closing the proceedings Saturday, host President Jacques Chirac acclaimed the meeting as an achievement in itself.

"It is the first time that 40 heads of state and government have gathered around a table to talk in the same terms about such essential issues as man's place in society, his rights, his dignity and social progress," he said.

Virtually every country in Europe — all 40 council members, together with four candidate members — attended, sending its highest possible representation. Only two states were absent: Belarus, suspended for human rights violations, and Serbia, which has not applied to join.

Proceedings were dominated by the presence of Russia, attending for the first time since its accession to the council last year.

President Boris Yeltsin seized the occasion to announce the setting up of an annual three-nation summit involving Russia, Germany and France, an initiative which highlighted the summit's political ambitions and aroused some misgivings among smaller nations.

Mr. Chirac was at pains to deny that he, Mr. Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl were forming a cabal to run the continent's affairs and pointed to the need to anchor Russia within Europe and build on the final ending of the divisions imposed by the postwar Yalta settlement.

In their final declaration, Europe's leaders declared their goal as creating a "freer, more tolerant and just European society." The implication was that it should be different from that of the United States, whose absence from the summit (other than as an observer) was stressed by the French organisers and several participants.

Among the summit's more striking pronouncements was a call for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty, still used in several American states.

French premier Lionel Jospin insisted on the "social dimension", singling out unemployment, and particularly youth unemployment, as the greatest challenge facing Europe.

The council's Social Charter, drawn up in 1961 but amended to provide greater social protection last year, "provides a basis for guaranteeing social rights."

The Strasbourg summit saw the council extend its activities beyond its traditional concern with political rights, not simply into "new risk" areas such as terrorism or child abuse, but also into issues of social cohesion, charging its executive with drawing up a long-term strategy and stepping up its role in job creation, notably through its Social Development Fund.

The summit's 19-point action plan, featuring a streamlined court of human rights that will make it easier for citizens to seek redress against their governments, is designed to take the council up to 1999, the 50th anniversary of its creation.

It aims also to secure a higher profile for the council, which has long languished in the shadow of the European Union, and establish it in the minds of the people as the continent's conscience.

# *Hanson under police protection after death threats*

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian race debate MP Pauline Hanson is under heavy police protection and has applied for a gun licence after death threats linked to Vietnamese crime gangs, reports said Sunday.

The threats surfaced Saturday in a report on Asian organised crime by the Drug Investigation Group in Queensland, where Ms. Hanson holds the seat of Oxley.

Ms. Hanson has spoken out about alleged Asian links with Australia's drugs trade.

The references to Ms. Hanson in the report were brief and few details were provided but it referred to murder, attempted murder and a kidnapping and "the current threats to the life of federal politician Pauline Hanson."

A Sunday newspaper said she was taking it seriously and had applied for a gun licence and received expert training in firing the weapon.

The newspaper quoted Ms. Hanson adviser David Ettridge as saying the death threats were the "only reason" she would want a gun.

But another adviser, David Oldfield, told reporters Sunday her firearm application was not related to the threats.

"She has applied for a standard firearms licence as a property owner and primary producer who may wish to put down animals on her farm."

He said Ms. Hanson "could not be happier with the protection" police were giving her, "but she stands by the view that Australians have the right to defend themselves and their families in their own homes."

In September 1994, John Newman, MP for the Sydney suburb of Cabramatta, where drug abuse and gang activity is rife, was shot dead outside his home.

The murder has not been solved, but media reports say state police believe the killers were Vietnamese drug gangsters.

Ms. Hanson recently launched her own One Nation party, after gaining notoriety last year when she warned Australia risked being "swamped" by Asians if immigration were not halted.

Polls show One Nation has the support of six per cent of the voting population but meetings to establish the party in various cities and towns have faced violent demonstrations.

Australia's new Tourism Minister Andrew Thomson, appointed in a recent cabinet reshuffle after three ministers resigned in a travel expenses scandal, said meanwhile Sunday that Ms. Hanson was "fading as a problem for Australia."

"She's had her run. She got a big run in Bangkok and in the Chinese language newspapers in Hong Kong and Singapore but it's fading now.

"I'm sure it hasn't damaged ... Australia as a destination." His comments coincided with figures showing record low occupancy rates at hotels in New South Wales state, blamed on a major drop in Asian tourists which some commentators attributed partly to the "Hanson factor." "Since April and May there has been a real decline across the board from Asian countries," Australian Hotels Association Chief Executive David Charles said.

"It has really slowed which has been exacerbated by the devaluation of their currencies."

To "counter any lingering problems sparked by Hanson" Mr. Thomson said he planned a drive to boost Australia's image as a tourist destination in Asia.

# Anti-Taleban alliance gains ground in northern Afghanistan

KABUL (AFP) — Taleban forces have suffered losses close to the northern Afghan opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif amid heavy but brief fighting, sources said Sunday.

Independent sources said the hardline Muslim army was Saturday pushed back from a key junction situated 35 kilometres east of the city, but were unclear of the extent of the anti-Taleban gains.

A spokesman for the opposition Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat faction, Mohammad Haidari, claimed his forces had advanced beyond the key town of Tashkurghan, situated 50 kilometres east of Mazar-i-Sharif.

He said anti-Taleban forces were now directly attacking Kunduz province, an enclave of Taleban troops and supporters, from where the hardline Islamic troops attacked their rival's base more than a month ago.

No independent confirmation of the claimed advance to or beyond Tashkurghan was immediately available.

However, independent sources said civilian vehicles were attempting to make the journey south along the main highway which passes through Tashkurghan, but said they were unclear if any had succeeded.

Furthermore, Taleban officials in the Afghan capital and in the southern base of Kandahar remained tight-lipped about the latest developments, asserting they had "no information" on the situation.

Situated 310 kilometres north of Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif is the seat of shadow government for the anti-Taleban coalition and is the only one of five Afghan cities not in Taleban hands.

With the claimed advance, the alliance would control the major highway from its base to the attacking front-lines north of the capital, which have been locked in stalemate for two months.

The anti-Taleban alliance includes two Shiite Muslim factions, the ousted Kabul Mujahedeen government and ethnic Uzbek fighters loyal to rival ex-Communist warlords Abdul Rashid Dostam or Abdul Malik.

The Taleban have held the capital Kabul for a year and control around two-thirds of Afghanistan, imposing a strict interpretation of Islamic law on a country gripped by more than 17 years of civil war.

# *Aung Kyi bears a personal grudge, says general*

RANGOON (AFP) — A top Burmese general has charged pro-democrat leader Aung San Suu Kyi with bearing a personal grudge, adding it was blocking reconciliation with the junta, official press reported Sunday.

Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, the first secretary of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) accused Aung San Suu Kyi and her party of giving priority to an "individual" rather than its "policy."

"It is essential for a person who will lead an organisation to possess the spirit of sacrifice and to avoid ego and personal grudge," Khin Nyunt told a gathering of 1,500 schoolteachers in Rangoon Saturday.

His comments followed the refusal of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) to hold talks with Khin Nyunt last month without the participation of the NLD leader.

Khin Nyunt said good faith and good will as well as "full confidence" in the SLORC's sincere "nation-building efforts" would be needed for any kind of dialogue with the NLD to get off the ground, the New Light of Myanmar reported.

The NLD swept the last elections held in Burma in 1990. The SLORC, which took power in 1988 after crushing pro-democracy protests, ignored the election result.

Khin Nyunt, who is also chief of military intelligence, warned that the SLORC would not tolerate any anti-government disturbances.

The junta would be obliged to take "preventive measures," in accordance with its responsibility to maintain law and protect the people and their property.

"Attempts to incite riots, causing panic among the people and deliberately manipulating and upsetting commodity prices are acts detrimental to the welfare of the people," he said.

# International Population Conference opens in Beijing

BEIJING (AFP) — The annual International Population Conference opened Sunday in Beijing, the capital of the world's most populous nation.

Organised by the Belgian-based International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the four-yearly conference will attempt to tackle problems all too familiar here, including birth control, immigration, increasing life expectancy and the growing global population.

Among other topics will be falling fertility figures, challenges of ageing populations on welfare systems, environment and abortion.

China, home to 22 per cent of world population with 1.2 billion residents, will itself be a focus of the meeting, with around 40 per cent of the delegates and several of the debates dedicated to its demography.

One symposium will consider the consequences of more and more parents being able to choose the sex of their child, a phenomenon which has led to a drop in the female population ratio in some countries, including China.

The North Korean delegation will be encouraged to fill in the official blanks on their population figures to augment the paucity of information available on the famine-ravaged Stalinist state.

At the last minute, Pyongyang sent four delegates whose names did not even make the conference list.

Some sources say a million have died due to the famine in North Korea.

No official discussion is expected on the situation in North Korea whose border is some 700 kilometres from here.

Demographers predict the global population will hit 10 billion by the end of the next century, from around six billion now.

Their arguments begin over the possibilities for providing for such a huge number of people.

# Sikhs demand apology from Queen Elizabeth

NEW DELHI (AFP) — At least two people were injured here Sunday hours before the start of a royal visit, when police fired water cannons on some 100 Sikh demonstrators demanding an apology from Queen Elizabeth for a colonial massacre.

Witnesses said police stopped the activists outside the British High Commission in New Delhi after they had insisted on entering the complex to make a formal demand for an apology.

The protesters, waving black flags, said the queen should publicly apologise for the 1919 massacre by British troops in Jallianwalla Bagh in the northern town of Amritsar.

"The queen has to apologise," they cried. "It is a black day for India today because she is coming."

The British monarch and her husband were due here late Sunday on a six-day visit. The royal couple will visit Jallianwalla Bagh where the queen will lay a wreath. But she will not apologise for the deaths of more than 300 people there.

The Sikh protesters also denounced the British army for preventing Sikh army recruits from wearing the turban, prescribed as mandatory headgear for all men by Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

It said some 70 Sikhs had been affected by the ban. "Sikhs are proud of their turban... which has great religious significance," a statement addressed to the British monarch said. "As you know the wearing of the turban by Sikh soldiers in the British army has been banned.

"This has hurt the religious feelings of the Sikh community all over the world. You are requested to intervene and lift the ban."

The British High Commission said Sikh turbans had not been "banned" in the army.

"Sikh soldiers are required to wear special turbans, which are small and can fit under protective headgear or a combat helmet at certain times," she said. "This is for their own safety and the safety of their colleagues.

"Other Sikh religious symbols like the "kara" (a ceremonial bangle) and the "kirpan" (a traditional Sikh scimitar are not banned either," she said.

The official said the queen's gesture in laying a wreath at Jallianwala Bagh was a form of apology.

"She is flying out miles, she will be walking to the memorial to lay a wreath. It is a silent apology. Sometimes gestures speak louder than words."

# *Clinton to meet Macarena in the flesh in Caracas*

CARACAS (R) — U.S. Democrats fervently embraced the popular Latin dance called the "Macarena" during last year's presidential campaign, but little did they know that President Bill Clinton would one day meet the real Macarena dancing queen in the flesh.

Venezuelan flamenco instructor and professional dancer Diana Patricia Cubillan, responsible for the biggest dance craze to sweep the globe, dances for the U.S. leader when he attends a state dinner in his honour Sunday evening in Caracas.

Ms. Cubillan's mother, Amanda Herrera, told Reuters Saturday that Bill and Hillary Clinton expressed the wish to meet the 26-year-old professional dancer during their one-day official visit to Venezuela.

"So she was contracted to dance with her group at La Casona," the Venezuelan presidential residency, Ms. Herrera said.

She explained that President Rafael Caldera, 81, whose penchants are more for sedate classical music, agreed to invite the "real" Macarena to mark the 22nd wedding anniversary of America's first couple this weekend.

"The truth is it's not exactly the style of the president," confessed presidential spokeswoman Patricia Rodriguez.

Ms. Herrera said her daughter was "extremely happy and ordered a dress to be made for the occasion, a blue one because it is Ms. Hillary's favourite colour."

The Macarena's catchy tune, which Ms. Cubillan was expected to dance towards the end of Sunday's presentation, was composed five years ago by a duet of Spanish singers known as "Los del Rio" when they briefly teamed up with her at a Caracas show.

# Pilots radiated more than nuclear workers

TOKYO (R) — Pilots and crews on international flights are pelted with yearly doses of radiation about three times higher than those received by workers at nuclear plants, a Japanese daily reported Sunday.

According to a six-year survey conducted by the Japanese Federation of Flight Crew Unions, crews on international flights are being bombarded with naturally occurring cosmic radiation, the Mainichi Shimbun reported.

International crews that flew between 700 to 800 hours a year were exposed to an average of three millisieverts of radiation. The average exposure for a technician at a Japanese nuclear plant is one millisievert, the paper reported.

Japan's Science and Technology Agency sets a maximum yearly exposure safety level for nuclear plant workers at 50 millisieverts, the paper said.

The survey said that crews who flew on the New York to Tokyo route received some of the highest exposures to cosmic radiation. Routes that pass near the North Pole also receive high doses of cosmic radiation, the paper said.

The Earth's atmosphere and magnetic fields filter out almost all cosmic radiation, but at an altitude of 10,000 metres, levels of cosmic radiation are about 100 to 200 times higher than at ground level, it said.

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# Hanson under police protection after death threats

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian race debate MP Pauline Hanson is under heavy police protection and has applied for a gun licence after death threats linked to Vietnamese crime gangs, reports said Sunday.

The threats surfaced Saturday in a report on Asian organised crime by the Drug Investigation Group in Queensland where Ms Hanson holds the seat of Oxley.

Ms. Hanson has spoken out about alleged links with Australian drug trade

The references to Ms Hanson in the report were brief and few details were provided but it reported murder, attempted murder and a kidnapping and the current threats to the federal politician, Ms Hanson.

A Sunday newspaper said she was taking shooting and had applied for a licence and received training in handling a weapon

The investigation, Ms Hanson's Ethnic threats were serious, she said.

But David [illegible] reporter [illegible] threats [illegible] related [illegible]

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The [illegible] was [illegible] killing [illegible] drug [illegible] Ms [illegible] Lawrence [illegible] National [illegible] believed [illegible] warning [illegible] bomb [illegible] Australia [illegible] but [illegible] Police [illegible] has the [illegible] said [illegible] been [illegible] been [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Uruguyan workers pile up pieces left of an Austral airlines DC-9 in the field where the plane crashed and disintegrated near the Uruguayan village of Nuevo Berlin (Reuter photo)

# Hope fades that Argentine DC-9 crash victims' remains will be found

NUEVO BERLIN, Uruguay (AFP) — Hope was fading late Saturday that searchers at the site of an Argentine DC-9 crash would be able to find the remains of the 74 people aboard.

Rescue crews had only found a human ear and arm, and some tiny pieces of fuselage, as they sifted through aircraft debris spread over a one-kilometre area of jungle and swamp.

The twin-engined airliner crashed late Friday in a swampy, hilly area outside this riverside town 300 kilometres (northwest of the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo.

The epicentre is a crater 15 to 20 metres wide and five to seven metres deep, made muddy by recent heavy rainfalls.

An unusually violent storm in the area may have caused the aircraft operated by Austral Airlines to plummet to earth, Argentine airport officials said in Buenos Aires.

Sixty-nine passengers, including three children, and five crew were on board, airline officials said. All were either from Argentina or Paraguay.

Rescue teams, who found the wreckage at around 5:00 a.m. (0800 GMT) Saturday, began excavating the crater, where a strong smell of combustible fuel suggested the plane had sunk deeply into the swampy terrain.

But late Saturday, after visiting the crash site with other officials, Uruguayan Interior Minister Didier Opertti told a press conference it was "not possible to return the bodies to their families."

Argentine Vice Foreign Minister Andres Cisneros in Buenos Aires cited an official Uruguayan government statement stating "identification and transfer of the remains is nearly impossible" because the crash site is so hard to reach.

Mr. Cisneros announced that the Argentine government would help get the families of the victims to the Uruguayan city of Paysandu for a memorial service.

The crash beightened fears about the safety of the Argentine travelling public, which were sparked when two people drowned and three were missing after a passenger ferry sank early Friday.

The vessel went down in the Parana River on a routine 30-kilometre course between the Uruguayan city of Carmelo and Argentina's Tigre. Survivors said the vessel's lifejackets were insufficient and of poor quality.

Meanwhile, the Argentine Association of Aeronautic Technicians in a statement blamed the DC-9 crash — the deadliest, in Argentine and Uruguayan commercial aviation history — on "business policies that put profits over safety."

The accusation followed an Argentine Pilots' Association warning last month that the government's plan to privatise 38 airports endangered public safety.

The pilots said in a statement that at least 15 flight "incidents" had occurred over the past year that could have become tragic accidents because of low safety standards and poor information about weather conditions from control towers.

Austral Airlines, owned by the Spanish airline Iberia, cancelled almost all its flights Saturday after staff refused to fly because of the crash.

Emotions flared at Buenos Aires' Jorge Newbery Airport as frustrated passengers with Austral tickets insulted the staff and smasbed a computer at a check-in counter, according to media reports.

Austral Flight 2553 vanished from the radar screens at Montevideo and Buenos Aires airports at 10:23 p.m. Friday (0123 GMT Saturday), Argentine air force Secretary General Juan Manuel Vasquez said.

The Argentine aeroplane, which flew regularly between the northern Argentine city of Posadas and Buenos Aires, was scheduled to arrive at 10:44 p.m. at the Aeroparque, the Buenos Aires airport for internal flights.

Mr. Vasquez said that the pilot and crew made a one-hour diversion over Uruguay to avoid the bad weather and that the pilots reported nothing unusual during their final radio contact with the control tower.

In Montevideo, Uruguayan air force officials said they believe the plane crashed because it gained excessive weight after ice formed on the fuselage.

# Prime minister's militia joins battle in Congo — source

KINSHASA (AFP) — Militiamen loyal to Congolese Prime Minister Bernard Kolelas have joined the fighting in Congo, backing presidential forces against those of former strongman Denis Sassou Nguesso, a reliable source said Sunday.

Entering the conflict for the first time since it broke out in early June, Mr. Kolelas' so-called Ninja militia participated in a counter-offensive last week aimed at regaining control of Brazzaville's Maya-Maya airport, the source said.

The source, reached by telephone from Kinshasa across the Congo River from Brazzaville, said the sporadic heavy and automatic weapons fire that could be heard early Sunday was coming from around the Sofitel Mbamou Palace Hotel, under control of presidential forces, and the building housing the Elf-Congo oil company, which is under rebel control.

Mr. Kolelas, formerly Brazzaville's mayor, had been involved in failed peace negotiations as a neutral figure.

But President Pascal Lissouba named him as prime minister last month, and now that the Ninjas have participated in the fighting, an independent source said: "There's no longer any neutral structure in the Congolese crisis."

The war, which broke out when Mr. Lissouba's troops sought to disarm Mr. Sassou Nguesso's militia ahead of presidential elections — since indefinitely postponed — has claimed at least 4,000 lives.

Saturday, both sides in the conflict claimed to have control of the airport, as well as the presidential palace.

The source said Mr. Kolelas' fighters also took part in fighting for the palace, adding that the rebels had failed to take it.

An independent source said that neither side had total control of Maya-Maya: "The forces of President Lissouha have partial control of the airport, and the other part is held hy those of Mr. Sassou Nguesso."

State television had run footage late Saturday of government troops at the airport, and to show that it was fully in their hands, Mr. Kolelas announced that domestic flights would soon resume from the facility, the first since last Tuesday when rebel forces mounted a major new offensive.

Mr. Kolelas, reached hy AFP from Kinshasa, said "loyalist forces" controlled the presidential palace, which rebel forces claimed to have taken Thursday.

A spokesman for Mr. Sassou Nguesso in Libreville, Isidore Mvouba, claimed that the rebels were in control of the airport and all the surrounding area.

The involvement of formerly neutral forces further entrenches a north-south divide that has emerged in the war, with Mr. Lissouba and Mr. Kolelas in control of the south and Mr. Sassou Nguesso dominating the north.

"Congo's unity is seriously threatened, and if we don't watcb out, Congo could fall apart as a nation," one observer said.

Mr. Lissouba, Mr. Sassou Nguesso and Mr. Kolelas have all signed a draft ceasefire agreement, hut no date has been set for it to take effect.

Mr. Kolelas said Gabonese President Omar Bongo, who has spearheaded international efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the Congolese conflict, was to set a date for the truce.

# *French police widen net in search for schoolgirl killer*

PLEINE-FOUGERES, France (AFP) — Police prohing the murder of British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson have planned DNA tests on men outside the Brittany village where sbe died, officials said Sunday.

The tests come as France prepares to create a national databank of genetic samples from convicted sex offenders to help in similar investigations in future.

Voluntary testing has already been carried out on men aged 15-35 in Pleine-Fougeres (Ille-et-Vilaine) over the weekend in the search for a breakthrough in the 15-month-old enqoiry.

Judicial officials were expected to announce late Sunday that most of the 170 men in this category responded to the appeal to give saliva samples to compare with fluids found on the 13-year-old girl's body.

If no match is found, examining magistrate Renaud van Ruymbeke wbo is in charge of the investigation will summon the village's 35 to 60-year-olds for a second wave of testing.

Genetic tests will also be carried out on men suspected or convicted of rape, exposing themselves, paedophilia or incest in departments neighbouring Ille-et-Vilaine in northwest France.

Samples will likewise be taken from a prison in Caen, further north in Normandy, where many convicted rapists are detained.

Dickinson was raped and murdered as she slept in a youth hostel in Pleine-Fougeres on the night of July 17 last year during a school trip.

Mr. van Ruymbeke took over the flagging investigation in August at the request of Dickinson's family frustrated by lack of progress.

Court official Philippe Drouet said the DNA testing campaign in Pleine-Fougeres was breaking new ground in France.

He said it will "lead to a change in the investigative methods used by police and justice officials" to benefit from new scientific techniques.

France's lower house of parliament voted on Oct. 1 to allow the creation of a national file of genetic fingerprints of sex offenders. The proposal is now to be studied by the upper house.

Mr. Drouet said such a database would be "of great use" in investigations such as the Dickinson murder.

He rejected protests against the tests in Pleine-Fougeres, such as graffiti sprayed on the town hall wall bearing the slogan "no to anti-liberty tests" and signed hy anarchists.

"People are free to come and submit to a painless test, the results of which are known very quickly and no traces of which are kept," he said.

Under French law, such tests are voluntary and citizens cannot be forced to submit to examinations

# Papon returns to trial freed of jail threat

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — Former French Cabinet Minister Maurice Papon, accused of wartime crimes against humanity for deporting Jews to Nazi death camps, is due to return to his trial here Monday in the knowledge that he will almost certainly never go to prison even if found guilty.

If, as expected, 87-year-old Papon is found guilty of the charges, the most serious on France's statute book, he would likely appeal to the Supreme Court, a lengthy process likely to last more than a year. During the appeal process, Mr. Papon would remain at liberty.

The decision Friday by the Bordeaux assize court to free the wartime official without setting hail conditions sparked fury among lawyers for civil plaintiffs in the case.

One of the lawyers, Arno Klarsfeld, called the ruling "scandalous" and walked out of the trial in protest, saying it meant that if convicted, Mr. Papon would be free until his expected appeal.

"Papon has been given his freedom forever," he said. "This decision is an insult to the memory of the victims, to the grief of the civil plaintiffs and to the people of France in general."

Mr. Klarsfeld, son of Nazi-hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld, criticised court President Jean-Louis Castagnede for partiality.

"The trial has become meaningless because the accused does not risk prison," he said.

Lawyer Gerard Welzer also withdrew from the trial, saying he and the two families he represented were "shocked" by the court's decision to free Mr. Papon who is charged with deporting more than 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps when he was secretary-general in charge of the "Jewish question" at the Bordeaux prefecture.

Mr. Welzer said his clients were free to remain and seek other representation.

Mr. Papon, he said, was being put up in a four-star hotel near Bordeaux for the trial, while his alleged victims bad been treated like paupers.

After hearing medical testimony as to Mr. Papon's heart condition, the court Friday waived the French rule that criminal defendants must be incarcerated while on trial, and released him.

The medical justification for Mr. Papon's release, said Mr. Welzer, was "false" because he was not under constant medical surveillance at his luxury hotel, at Margaux on the Bordeaux estuary, as two court-appointed doctors had recommended.

The court's ruling sparked outrage among Jewish organisations and families of Nazi victims and their lawyers wbo were following the landmark trial closely, some as civil plaintiffs.

Witness Michel Slitinsky, a Jewish resistance fighter who narrowly escaped a police raid ordered by Mr. Papon, declared: "They say he is a very old man, hut in the deportation trains there were very young children."

Mr. Papon, who is only the second Frenchman to go on trial for crimes against humanity, had spent Thursday night in hospital intensive care and Tuesday and Wednesday nights in jail. But Friday night he dined in an expensive restaurant at Margaux.

In its ruling, the court said there was no risk the accused would abscond or suborn witnesses and that it had taken into account Mr. Papon's age and health and the projected length of the trial, expected to last until Christmas.

Two court-appointed doctors had recommended Thursday that Mr. Papon be held in hospital rather than in prison throughout the case.

Mr. Papon's state of health has been an issue since his trial began Wednesday. Last year he underwent a triple beart hypass operation.

The two court-appointed doctors had recommended that Mr. Papon be moved from prison because of the small size of his cell, its uncomfortable bed, insufficient first-aid facilities and "the undeniable gravity of his cardiac condition," as well as the length of the trial.

The former Gaullist hudget minister and Paris prefect of police had been free since being sent for trial in January, hut under French law a prisoner appearing before a court for felony is usually held in jail for his trial.

The case is seen as forcing France to confront its collaborationist past, hut Mr. Papon has called it "a masquerade" and says he is being made a scapegoat for the misdeeds of the Vichy regime.

Mr. Papon's lawyer Jean-Marc Varaut, who skilfully played his hand to win the release order, has urged that the trial be called off, saying that it is "unfair" and violates Mr. Papon's human rights as no direct witnesses — his superiors and subordinates at the Bordeaux prefecture or contemporaries in the police — remain alive.

The court will decide on Mr. Varaut's plea Wednesday, but it has little chance of succeeding and was opposed hy chief prosecutor Henri Desclaux and the civil plaintiffs, many of them people who survived the deportations and relatives of those who never returned.

The Papon case follows that of Paul Touvier, the former French militia chief in Lyon, in 1994, and the chief of the Gestapo in Lyon, Klaus Barbie, also sentenced to life in prison in 1987. Both men died in prison.

# Pope beatifies 5 in Vatican ceremony

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul put five people on the road to Roman Catholic sainthood at a solemn beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Square Sunday.

The 77-year-old Pope, wearing green and gold vestments, appeared in relatively good form but at times tired as he led the ceremony for thousands of people outside Christendom's largest church.

However, he read his sermon in a strong voice. The five — three Italians, a Mexican and a Belgian — were made "blesseds" of the Roman Catholic Church. Beatification is the penultimate step leading to sainthood in the church.

The five were: Emilie d'Oultremont, a Belgian who was born into a well-to-do family in 1818 and who founded an order of nuns; Father Giovanni Piamarta, a priest born in northern Italy in 1841 who dedicated his life to educating the children of the poor and founded a religious order to carry on his work; Father Domenico Lentini, a holy man who worked as an itinerant preacher in some of the poorest parts of rural southern Italy before his death in 1828; Elia del Soccorso Nieves, a priest who was killed by anti-clerical forces during the Mexican revolution early this century; Mother Maria Teresa Fasce, the abbess of the monastery of St. Rita in Cascia, Italy. Mother Fasce died in 1948 after founding an orphanage for girls in the Umhrian city where St. Rita is buried.

Beatification requires one miracle after a candidate's death. The miracle must be the result of a person praying to the candidate for intercession with God.

Miracles are usually the healing of medical conditions that doctors are at a loss to explain.

With beatification, the candidate for sainthood is declared a "blessed" of the church. This allows a limited form of veneration.

Another miracle is needed between beatification and canonisation, or the conferring of sainthood.

# S. Africa's Winnie to reappear before truth probe

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, former wife of President Nelson Mandela, faces Monday the country's "Truth Commission" probing charges she was directly linked to unsolved crimes dating back to the late 1980s.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was subpoenaed in August to answer allegations of involvement in murders, abductions and torture commited while her ex-husband was serving a 27-year jail term.

The closed inquiry began on her 63rd birthday on Sept. 26 but was adjourned after only a half-day of questioning.

The commission has said it is investigating accusations made against her by 45 witnesses. But Monday's inquiry is expected to only last the day, and nothing she may say to the panel will be revealed in public.

An open hearing will, however, be held in November.

The embattled former first lady has consistently pledged her innocence and she ignored the final cut-off date for amnesty from the Commission for Human Rights Offences, which expired on Sept. 30.

A shrewd politician, she has survived a rollercoaster public life which has seen her once-revered status as "mother of the nation" dwindle amid scandal after scandal.

Ms. Madikizela-Mandela first alienated some supporters when in the 1980s she endorsed "necklacings", the practice of killing suspected apartheid collaborators by burning them alive.

Shortly after the killing of a teenage activist in December 1988, for which the leader of her township entourage was jailed, she was publicly reprimanded by an influential group of African National Congress (ANC) members.

But the rebuff was quickly forgotten when she escorted her then husband out of jail in February 1990.

Many analysts thought she was finally heading into the political wilderness when her husband divorced her last year, accusing her of being a cold-hearted spendthrift who cuckolded him with a young black lawyer.

But this did not harm Ms. Madikizela-Mandela's image as a champion of the "impoverished masses" or cut into her grassroots support base and last month, the 60,000-member ANC Women's League nominated her for the ruling party's second highest post.

Opinion is divided as to whether she will win the party deputy presidency, with several other challengers expected to be nominated at the congress in December. Another front-runner is thought to be current party chairman, Jacob Zuma.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, heir-apparent to President Mandela when he retires in 1999, recently sought to play down — but did not refute — speculation that if she won the party vote, she would become the country's next deputy president.

The Truth Commission, led by Nobel peace laureate Desmond Tutu, is probing human rights abuses on both sides of the apartheid divide. It has the power to subpoena witnesses and grant amnesty to perpetrators who confess fully to their crimes.

# Spying becomes 9-to-5 job in Poland

WARSAW (AFP) — Polish spies need only work six hours a day if they are expected to go on surveillance missions in the rain, according to their new job description published here Sunday.

Pregnant spies are not allowed to work more than eight hours a day, while those subject to "great psycbological tension" only work six hours, intelligence chief General Andrzej Kapkowski has ruled.

Secret agents will be expected to work Monday to Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., according to the new conditions published hy the PAP news agency.

If they are especially busy and have to work the weekend, they are entitled to days off to recuperate. They must not work more than 40 hours a week.

Those at the mercy of the weather on secret surveillance missions outside or who are asked to "record and listen to tapes with changing sound levels or monitor radios" can get off two hours earlier.

Spies are also allowed to be on call at their homes, four times a month.

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## Collective Arab responsibility

**DESPITE THE favourable report that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) this week submitted to the U.N. Security Council asserting that Iraq lost all capability to develop nuclear weapons, the pressure on that country continues to persist on many other fronts. It seems that no matter what the Iraqi government does and to what extent it goes to meet its obligations under the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions, certain powers are bent on weakening it further and effectively pushing it back to the pre-industrial stage of development.**

***It is no secret that the 1991 Gulf war basically* targeted Iraqi nuclear and other weapon capabilities at a time when it was on the threshold of becoming a regional power. As long as suspicions linger that there are still Iraqi scientists who have the remotest know-how of how to develop their country's mass destruction weapons, the political pressure and the economic sanctions against that country will continue. This explains the decision of the IAEA director general, Hans Blix, "not to close the books" on Iraq notwithstanding his "positive report" on the country's nuclear capabilities.**

**Mr. Blix's report to the council states that "there are no indications to suggest that Iraq was successful in its attempt to produce nuclear weapons," in the first place. The international agency also confirms that Baghdad never produced "more than a few grammes" of nuclear material usable for weapons and that even that modest amount has been removed and fully accounted for. Now that the international community is satisfied that Iraq has no fissionable material whatsoever to produce any nuclear weapons, the attention has been shifted to investigating the country's know-how in the field of nuclear physics.**

**This we suggest is too much. Nuclear physics is a familiar subject in almost all universities of any *reasonable standing and to suggest that Iraqi* scientists should rid themselves of even the basic knowledge about the nuclear reaction theory strikes us as an exaggerated form of discrimination against the Arab country. At a time when not one *single* Arab state *is* allowed to develop its nuclear technology, Israel is forgiven for having its own nuclear weapons programme and for stockpiling no less than 200 nuclear bombs and the means to deliver them. The only explanation for this campaign to dismember Iraq and render it weak and vulnerable is that it aims to weaken the overall Arab posture regionally and internationally. No wonder the Turkish deputy prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, is now calling for the permanent stationing of Turkish troops in northern Iraq and Iran feels free to penetrate the Iraqi airspace and bomb opponents of the Iranian regime.**

**The weakening of Iraq that might eventually lead to its disintegration is a threat that endangers the interests of every Arab country. It is therefore the collective responsibility of the Arab states to *intervene with the members of the Security* Council to find ways to save the country from total collapse and its people from famine and diseases.**

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**Al Dustour's** Oreih Rintawi took up the issue of the U.S. escalation of tension in the Middle East with new threats to Iraq. Theses threats, said Rintawi, made under the pretext that the Iraqi leadership is not cooperating with the U.N. arms inspection team, are clearly designed to cover up for Washington's repeated failures in achieving a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process because of Israel's intransigent stand. He said all U.S. diplomatic missions to the region have been hampered by Israel's relentless stand and its refusal to comply with the requirements of genuine peace. According to Rintawi, Israel's behaviour has embarrassed the U.S. administration, motivating it to search for some action to divert attention from its failures, thus the new threats against Iraq. By doing so, the U.S. is condoning Turkey's invasion of Iraqi territory and Iran's air raids on the Arab country at a time when the Iraqi people continue to suffer from diseases, starvation and deprivation, said the writer. He said U.S. escalation of the situation in the region is a direct threat to the Arab World's security and is complementary to the Iranian and Turkish aggression on the Iraqi people.

**Arab Al Yawm's** Saleh Qallab attacked wealthy Jordanians who maintain deposits in foreign banks abroad and are not doing anything to alleviate the suffering of the needy people in the Kingdom. He said there is evidence that quite a large number of Jordanian citizens have accumulated wealth amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars in banks abroad, at a time, he added, when their country resorts to borrowing from global institutions to finance its development projects. Most probably, Qallab charged, these wealthy citizens amassed their fortunes through illegal means since many of them had served in public office and were not oil field owners. What we ask from these wealthy Jordanians is not to account for their massed fortunes or to give us exact figures about their wealth, but to keep part of their wealth in the Kingdom to be invested in income-generating projects that could employ the poor, Qallab said.

## Economic Review

**By Dr. Yusuf Mansur**

# Israeli economy spirals down

THE RECENT Netanyahu blunder has been recognised as such by one and all, including those close to the Israeli prime minister himself — all, that is, except for Netanyahu of course, which, to say the least, would have been out of character. At any rate, forgetting possible grand designs and conspiracies, and shrugging off the recent assassination attempt as an honest or dishonest mistake (depending upon one's perspective), what is important is that Netanyahu's leadership is failing, not only by attempting to destroy the peace of the Oslo accords, but also in being unable to revive the Israeli economy, the one thing the Netanyahu cabinet promised not to destroy.

In 1996, the then newly elected Israeli government pledged to cut the budget deficit from 4 to 2.8 per cent of the GDP in 1997 and further reduce the deficit to 1.5 per cent by the year 2000. 1997 is almost over, and the budget deficit has risen beyond the initial 4 per cent. Furthermore, there are no signs that the deficit will fall. In fact, it should rise further if the Israeli government desires to stimulate its ailing economy.

Furthermore, high interest rates brought forth by the quasi-independent Bank of Israel to curb inflation are not aiding a quick recovery: their discount rate of 13.4 per cent may further stifle possibilities for an economic revival. Unfortunately for Israel, the government will not be able to deliver on its early promises because the economy is speedily moving toward a recession, and a greater budget deficit may be a temporary solution for the storm that is brewing.

Netanyahu's strategy for helping the fledgling Israeli economy is not working. Growth has recently slowed to 2.0 per cent — from 2.8 per cent earlier in the year, 4.4 per cent in 1996, and 6 per cent in 1995. Unemployment has risen to 7.6 per cent up from 7 per cent a few months ago (it was only 6 per cent in 1995) thus signalling a serious acceleration in the downturn of the Israeli economy. The expected annual inflation rate is around 10 per cent, right at the top of the government's target inflation range of 7 to 10 per cent. Both inflation and unemployment are rising; who could ask for more from his government?

Other campaign promises of more settlements and the destruction of peace while providing Israel with greater security, as expected by anyone with common sense, are also proving disastrous. Every time settlements are started, the Israeli economy slides backward in the midst of criticism from within and outside of Israel. Pessimism is bad for the economy. The stalled peace process causes spending to spiral downward leading to the loss of jobs and greater unemployment.

What makes the situation even worse for the Netanyahu government is that world markets may see some fiscal tightening as the governments of the European Union (EU) reduce their budget deficits to meet the 2 per cent budget deficit requirement of the European Monetary Union and the growth in the U.S. economy starts to dampen slightly — the growth rate in the second quarter declined to 3.3 per cent as the trade deficit widened by $4 billion reducing the growth rate by 0.2 percentage points from 3.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1997.

The Netanyahu regime has proven to be dissatisfactory to the extremists as well as the moderates. Netanyahu is learning — we hope for the sake of innocent lives that he becomes a fast learner — that Israel's political, physical and economic security can only be attained through a just and lasting peace.

The future does not look too bright for Israel under the present leadership. A Labour government may prove to be long overdue. Either that, or the economic hardship brought by the Netanyahu regime will prove not to have bottomed out yet. Maybe the words of Adam Smith will ring true here also: "In civilised society man stands at all times in need of the cooperation and assistance of great multitudes, while his own life is scarce sufficient to gain the friendship of a few persons." And keeping this in mind, "we must address ourselves not to the humanity but to the self-love of others."

# Flexibility in the face of failure

*Is Israel behind the U.S. reluctance to initiate a dialogue with Iran?*

**By Eric Rouleau**

AN UNPRECEDENTED turn of events: the United States has backed down before France on a confrontation of crucial importance. Washington's abstention, temporarily, it is true, from slapping sanctions on the oil company Total, which has concluded a natural gas deal with Iran, is an implicit admission of impotence. The event is remarkable for several reasons: President Clinton runs the risk of a clash with a Republican-majority Congress; last year, this same Congress passed the so-called D'Amato law, which attempts to deprive all non-American firms of the right to invest more than $40 million in the Libyan or Iranian energy industries. Even more serious is the precedent this retreat sets, which will certainly encourage other international conglomerates to snub the U.S. prohibition; both the Dutch-British consortium Shell, and the French firm Elf-Aquitaine, for instance, could soon sign natural gas contracts which they had hitherto been hesitant to conclude with Tehran, for fear of being subjected to sanctions. Total's victory, furthermore, is likely to win the approval of the Caspian Sea countries, which had planned to send their gas and petrol through the Islamic Republic. Total, therefore, could vie confidently with its American and Russian competitors in this petrol-rich region.

In a bid to save face, and also, no doubt, time, President Clinton has given himself six months to think before deciding whether or not to "punish" the French company. This delay, it is said in Washington, will serve to apply pressure on France and the European Union and persuade them to join forces with the U.S. in the anti-terrorist struggle. A high-ranking State Department official complained several days ago, during a conversation with this writer, of Europe's ill will. According to him, the Europeans have already rejected several collaboration proposals, and have gone so far as to refuse to draw up a list of points for which to blame the Islamic Republic. Evidently, the Europeans have no intention of adopting the enemies, not to mention the methods, of their Trans-Atlantic allies. Everything suggests that they are not planning to accept tomorrow what they vigorously refused yesterday.

The Americans' exercise in backpedalling is exceptional, but understandable when one knows the factors which prompted President Clinton to take a decision so loaded with consequences.

Clearly, he could hardly have inflicted significant damage upon the French company, which had taken the precaution of liquidating virtually all its assets in the U.S., but he could have taken a symbolic measure.

The real reasons for his passivity lie elsewhere: the United States cannot allow itself the luxury of launching a trade and economic war with Europe, which is unanimously determined not only to exact reprisals from U.S. firms, but also to file a complaint with the International Trade Organisation, accusing the U.S. of having violated the principle of free trade. According to experts on the question, Washington would have been condemned by the international organisation. Nor is President Clinton keen on triggering a conflict with Russia, the ally of the European Community, given that one of its largest enterprises, Gazprom, is associated with Total in Iran.

Other motives, most of which he cannot confess to, have determined Clinton's behaviour. In private, he implied to his European listeners "notably, President Chirac" that he was not in favour of the D'Amato law, and that it had been pushed through by the Republican majority. In July 1995, the Republicans forced him to slap unilateral sanctions on Iran, although large sections of the U.S. administration were congratulating themselves on the signing of a contract between Iran and the U.S. firm Conoco. The cancellation of this contract, worth a billion dollars, led Tehran to give it to Total. Thanks to the recent gas deal ($2 billion), the French firm is now the Islamic Republic's prime partner in the energy domain.

> *. . .increasingly numerous voices are being raised in politics and the media, encouraging Washington to normalise relations with the Islamic Republic.*

More generally, the policy of unilateral sanctions that Washington practices globally is the cause of increasing concern in American business circles, which find themselves excluded from large markets to the benefit of non-American industrialists and exporters. These punitive measures have brought the U.S. scarce political profit. The experience, furthermore, has amply demonstrated that the economic sanctions, whether uni- or multilateral, imposed since World War II have almost never achieved their political aims. Yet not only has the U.S. Congress failed to learn the relevant lessons; it also continues to impose an ever-widening range of punitive measures upon those countries found guilty of not sharing the U.S. options. The public at large is generally unaware of the fact that, in the past four years, Congress has passed 61 unilateral sanctions against 35 countries.

Naturally, resistance to these practices is on the increase, as is the pressure being applied to the Clinton administration. A lobby "USA Engage" has thus been formed grouping 600 industrial and commercial enterprises, with the objective of opposing the policy of sanctions.

Meanwhile, increasingly numerous voices are being raised in politics and the media, encouraging Washington to normalise relations with the Islamic Republic. One of the most significant manifestations of this opposition was the publication last May in Foreign Affairs of an article signed by three frontline figures: Zbigniew Brzezinski, Brent Scowcroft and Richard Murphy. The two former were presidential advisers at the White House; the third, assistant secretary of state.

The authors of this text emphasised that Washington's hostility towards Iran has pushed the latter closer to Russia, while further widening the chasm with the U.S., on one hand, and the European nations and some Gulf countries, on the other.

Having accused Congressional Republicans (explicitly) and the Israeli lobby (implicitly), of being behind the sanctions, they argue that these are meaningless: if one is to believe them, Iran is not a military threat to its neighbours, and lacks the means to finance subversive activity beyond its borders. They suggest, finally, that Washington resort to the methods of classical diplomacy, as the Europeans have done, to dissuade Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Several renowned journalists, some of whom have been received in Tehran with respect, and sometimes cordial hospitality, have also become advocates of normalisation.

The debate, in fact, has even divided the Clinton administration itself, as a high-ranking State Department official told me the other day: "Our policy in Iran has failed." He added, it is true: "Because of you Europeans."

The failure is undeniable. The sanctions, of course, have caused difficulties, notably of a financial nature, in the Iranian economy, but it has managed to develop thanks to the participation of industrial powers in Europe and Asia. The D'Amato law has failed to prevent the petrol industry from taking off once more. No one in Washington denies that the Islamic Republic is firmly rooted and, since the election of Mohammad Khatami, that it is headed for a reinforcement of its legitimacy and its institutions.

The Americans have suddenly discovered, thanks to the most recent elections, that a certain kind of democracy exists in Iran. Zbigniew Brzezinski, among many others, has noted: "We did not realise that the Iranians had such a margin of freedom, even if, in our eyes, this remains clearly insufficient."

Although prudence is still the rule, Mohammad Khatami's personality continues to fascinate, while raising hopes that the Iranian regime can evolve sufficiently to obtain an honourable place for the Islamic Republic on the international scene. The statements made by the new president with respect to various freedoms, human rights, international détente, and cooperation with the Gulf countries have captured the attention of the most suspicious U.S. officials. They have been especially impressed by the make-up of the new government, and the appointment of moderates at the head of the ministry of intelligence and the Pasdarans, replacing men considered favourable to terrorism, and (hitherto) immovable.

Is U.S. policy towards Iran being revised, as the U.S. media have claimed since Khatami was elected? To this question, officials at the State Department and the White House respond with a resounding no. If one is to believe them, these "rumours" are the fruit of journalists' imagination. If one mentions the decision taken by Washington last July to stop opposing the construction of a pipeline from Turkmenistan to Turkey via Iran, U.S. officials insist that the measure was taken to serve the interests of friendly or allied countries, Turkey or those of the Caspian Sea. But they forget to mention Israel. One of the main beneficiaries of this project, in fact, is the powerful Israeli group Merhav, firmly settled in Turkmenistan, which wishes to participate in the construction of the pipeline. When U.S. and Israeli interests coincide, there is little risk in tossing Iran a bouquet...

It remains, nevertheless, that Washington has adopted a more flexible position over a dialogue with Iran. Not long ago, U.S. officials were speaking of "conditions" for opening negotiations. The Iranian government had to accept, among other things, being called to account over its subversive and terrorist operations abroad, its attitude towards peace with Israel, and its attempts to acquire weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear armaments.

Strangely, an Iranian official was telling me, the Americans "unlike the Europeans" never bring up human rights or the fatwa concerning Salman Rushdie. Since then, this position has grown more flexible. Dialogue, it is said today in Washington, can take place "without preconditions," each of the parties being free to include upon the agenda the issues they choose.

"We are perfectly ready," states an American official, "to discuss subjects in which Iran is interested" for instance, the future of the regime in Iraq, the return of civil peace in Afghanistan, Gulf security. As for Washington, it could include questions of terrorism and the nuclear industry, not the Arab-Israeli peace process, correctly judged too premature an initiative.

One may well ask, therefore: what obstacle prevents the dialogue from getting under way? The U.S. administration invariably replies: "Iran must express its desire for a dialogue publicly, and, especially, it must make clear and unambiguous its intention to turn to a new page in our relations." In fact, Washington is waiting for a sufficiently significant gesture to convince public opinion and Congress that negotiations with Iran are neither shameful nor a step towards capitulation. This possibility, however, seems to be out of the question for a long time to come, taking the White House's weakness into account. It is currently the target of numerous destabilisation campaigns, led or dreamed up by the Republicans, and the power of the pro-Israeli lobby, which enjoys considerable influence in Congress.

Mr. Netanyahu and his friends in the media have redoubled their efforts in recent weeks, attempting to convince public opinion that Russian-Iranian cooperation has reached a dangerous pass. They would have us believe that, two years from now at most, Tehran will own missiles capable of launching biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, while "hundreds of Russian scientists and technicians are in Bushehr to contribute to the construction of a reactor, supposedly destined for peaceful use. "This, however, is just so much "information," and leaves the Europeans cold.

What is the real aim of this demonisation campaign? To prevent U.S.-Iranian rapprochement? Or to offer Bill Clinton a deal, whereby Israel will recognise his freedom to implement the policy of his choice in Iran, in return for giving Netanyahu a free rein in the occupied territories? The question, astonishing as it may seem, is not absent from the speculations in which many observers are engaging.

## Human Rights File

### Making a difference for women

**By Waleed M. Sadi**

AT A TIME when women in Jordan are desperately trying to leave their mark on the development of the country including a wider participation in the democratic process, Her Majesty Queen Noor once again rose up to the challenges facing Jordanian females in a keynote speech to the annual Women of the Year lunch in Amman last week. The theme of this year's gathering of some 500 distinguished women in the Kingdom to chart a new path to their gender's crusade for greater appreciation and recognition was aptly called "making a difference."

Women in Jordan are indeed beginning to make a more pronounced difference although as Queen Noor rightly reminded her audience, women in Islam had long made a noticeable difference in many walks of life including the conduct of state affairs. It is therefore high time to give tribute to the vital roles that women played throughout the early and middle stages of Islam.

Actually we don't need to go back to ancient history or forward in contemporary history to note that women in Islam did in fact make a difference once they had set their minds to it. Queen Noor herself has made a difference not once but repeatedly in what we may call a continuing process. The Queen's continuous crusade on behalf of women in Jordan has indeed significantly affected their place in society. Suffice to recall the moral and political support that the Queen has been extending to women over the past decades. Without this high profile backing, Jordanian women's ordeals may have been compounded to the point that they would have impeded even the modest advancement of women's rights and duties.

It is recorded in early Islamic history that Queen Arwa of Yemen in the 12 century made great strides to advance state affairs and raise the level of women's participation in the decision making process. It is also said that the Yemeni queen literally turned swords into ploughshares and replaced warfare with diplomacy and negotiations in her time.

The dramatic change in the role of women between pre-Islamic and post-Islam eras is a living testimony of how Islam views women. For instance, Islam did not introduce polygamy but rather regulated it by introducing stringent conditions and constraints on its application. An enlightened interpretation of the Koran would readily support the thesis that Islam has actually put a lid on the widespread practice of polygamy that characterised life in pre-Islam by postulating that whereas a man may marry up to four women provided he can treat them equally, human nature is such that he is unable to accord this equal treatment even under the best and most favourable conditions. Effectively, therefore, Islam nullified the practice of polygamy per se. Another prime example of how Islam made a big difference is the swift and effective ending of female infanticide that gained currency prior to the advent of Islam. This was no small feat given the size of the toll on girls' lives in pre-Islam days. Unfortunately there is still lingering discrimination against female infants, but their roots go back to pre-Islam rather than to Islam itself.

This would lead us to conclude that Islam is quite progressive on the importance and role of women. Even where it appears that there are still acts of discrimination being perpetrated against them in some mundane matters, these negative differential treatments are founded on reasons and conditions that are no longer in existence. An enlightened construction of such constraints on women could easily reduce them to a bare minimum.

The fact that Queen Noor is holding the banner for women everywhere she goes and is continuously championing their crusade for equality should encourage and promote bolder steps to accord women equal treatment across the board. There is nothing like having a bipolar effort, one from the very top and the other from the grass-root level, to enable women to achieve their ultimate goals. This fact provides a golden opportunity for feminists to wage their struggle under the most ideal conditions.

Against this backdrop, women in Jordan are called upon to continue their crusade for greater recognition of their place in society. The recent meeting of Jordanian women organised jointly by the Women's Committee for the 1997 Elections and the Jordanian National Forum for Women headed by HRH Princess Basma has succeeded in setting the tone for the women's agenda when they seek parliamentary seats in the upcoming general elections. On the list of women's priorities are the fight against poverty, unemployment, corruption and the advancement of the democratic process in the Kingdom. These are of direct interest to voters in general.

There are now 24 women candidates seeking parliamentary seats in the next elected legislature. Their cause is the cause of every man and woman in the country. How they conduct themselves once in office would also reflect on their own gender. The people would be watching them in action very closely. If the presence of ladies in Parliament is felt in a positive way, it will resonate across the hearts and minds of electors of both sexes for all future times and more women would be elected to parliament in the future.

## Letters

### *Share, and share alike*

**To the Editor:**

ACCEPTANCE AS a partner in the community of European democratic nations cannot be achieved by wisbful thinking. It takes a record of civilised behaviour, respect for human rights and international law to establish the necessary credentials for such a partnership.

Modern Turkey, has dismally failed to establish such an image with the civilian, democratic European Community and it is not helping its image much as a law-abiding nation in the world community, in declaring its intention to sell on the world market water resources which feed the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and considering such resources as solely its own and denying the downstream countries (Syria and Iraq) their rights in such water resources; which threatens the very existence of these two countries' water — the life-blood of any nation. Turkey should show more respect for international law and civilised norms of behaviour and hence should not be surprised that political forces like the PKK or other movements inside Turkey, are looked upon with sympathy by countries on the receiving end of Turkey's unprecedented act of selfishness.

**Omar Abbass**
**Amman**

# Misha'al says coexistence possible only after Palestinians regain full rights, sovereignty

Interview

**Khaled Misha'al, the Hamas leader who was attacked in Amman by Israeli Mossad agents on September 25, was interviewed last week by Jordan Times columnist Rami G. Khouri and Yasser Abu Hilaleh of Al Ra'i. Following is a translation of that interview in its entirety.**

**Q:** Why do you think you were targetted personally in the assassination attempt?

**A:** The Zionist enemy [Israel] does not differentiate among Palestinians. It targets the politician, the fighter, the woman, and child and the elderly. Our people are all targets to the enemy's terror. Therefore, targetting Khaled Misha'al does not need justification. I think, however, that Netanyahu, after his many failures and especially his failure to provide Israelis with the security he promised them, and his failure in south Lebanon, wanted to achieve a dramatic or symbolic victory. That was intended to cover up for his failures on the one hand and to lift the morale of the Zionist people on the other. A third possibility is that Netanyahu wanted to export his domestic crisis abroad, and thus he chose Hamas' chief of the political bureau.

**Q:** After the latest developments how do you see your relations with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), especially after the meetings between Sheikh Yassin and Mr. Arafat in Amman and in Gaza?

**A:** Our principles in Hamas as far as the PNA is concerned did not change. We deal with the PNA as part of our people despite our political differences. Although we are against the Oslo agreements, we strive to bolster national unity in the face of occupation and in the face of any confrontation. We were patient despite all the pains that the PNA caused us. After the recent developments our resolve has been strengthened. We hope that the PNA would reconsider its stands and give priority to Palestinian national interests and resist all the pressures applied on it by the Israelis and Americans.

Our battle is against Zionist occupation. Meanwhile we work hard to bolster our relations with all Palestinian groups, including the PNA. Our main fight is against the enemy. This has always been our policy. But the PNA changed in response to Israeli positions and criteria. We want to meet with the PNA, but based on Palestinian positions and criteria.

**Q:** Your relations with Jordan have seen their ups and downs. How do describe them now and what is their future?

***Hamas' presence in Jordan is not a burden on the country or on any other party. Our work is limited to political and media work.***

**A:** Our relations with Jordan are good. They are part of our wider relations with Arab and Muslim parties. We are proud of these relations that are leading to the mobilisation of the Arabs against Zionist aggression. Hamas' presence in Jordan is not a burden on the country or on any other party. Our work is limited to political and media work. We do not interfere in the internal affairs (of Jordan) nor do we infringe on its security. We consider Jordanian and Arab security as being our security as well. Our presence therefore is not a burden on anybody, but rather an asset to the Arab and Muslim position. Also, our relations with Jordan are not meant to be at the expense of anybody else, especially not at the expense of the PNA. Likewise our relations with the PNA are not at the expense of Jordan. Our relations with Arab and Muslim states are balanced and in the service of the cause of Palestine and the cause of the nation. We do not have any problems with other countries, in the Arab World or abroad. Our problem is only with the Israeli occupation.

**Q:** His Majesty King Hussein this week talked about a letter be sent to Netanyahu suggesting a dialogue with Hamas. What is the letter about and what is its importance?

**A:** Let me be very clear about this: Hamas did not send any letter, whether written or verbal, whether direct or through an intermediary, to the Zionist enemy.

**Q:** How do explain what the King said, then?

**A:** Ask the other parties. Clearly all the parties want to draw Hamas into the circle of the settlement, because Hamas is an influential force and because it has a strong presence in the Palestinian arena, and cannot therefore be ignored. There is a desire and an intention to draw Hamas into the current process to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, but that does not mean that Hamas has agreed to this.

**Q:** How do you interpret (Hamas founder and spiritual leader) Sheikh Ahmad Yassin's statements that the Palestinians are ready to coexist with the Jews if Israeli settlements and occupation are ended?

**A:** Sheikh Yassin was talking about a situation after the rights of our people are restored. But there can be no existence with the enemy as long as it occupies our land and uproots our people. The victim must not be asked to live with his or her victimiser. We are the victims of Zionist terror; coexistence cannot be imposed on us while we are still under occupation and while we are denied a return to our land. But once our people have realised their rights, like the Americans realised theirs long ago, once we own our land and the five million Palestinian in the diaspora return home, then we can coexist with Jews. There is no reason why a Jew cannot live with a Muslim and be secure in his home and his place of worship. That is what the Sheikh meant. And this is not new to our umma (Muslim community or nation). We lived for 14 centuries with many religions and those people enjoyed safety among us. We have no problem living with the other, as our religion and history both confirm. We have no conflict with anybody unless we are attacked and occupied. Therefore we have no problem with America, Canada or the Europeans. What has been proven is that the Zionists cannot live and coexist with Palestinians. Even when they lived in Europe they could not coexist with others. The Zionists are now using their good relations with the U.S. and Canada in the service of terror, like in my case. We can only coexist (with them) after we enjoy our full rights.

**Q.** What rights do you mean? Do you mean that Israel should withdraw to the 1967 borders and coexist with a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza? Or do you mean that Israel should not exist as a Jewish state and instead all the peoples in Israel and Palestine should live together in a single state?

**A:** The Palestinian right is a whole and cannot be divided. It means their right to live on their land as they did before the occupation. We want to go back to that (situation). We will not forfeit that right with the passage of time. Aggression, also, cannot gain legitimacy with time. The logic of the U.N. and the big powers accepts this — except in Palestine. All nations that resist occupation are recognised. We have no problem accepting the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as a transitional solution, but without giving up on our right to the rest of the land (of Palestine) and without giving legitimacy to the state of occupation and aggression. This transitional liberation is only one stage in our quest for the total liberation of Palestine.

**Q:** Doesn't transitional liberation imply a recognition of Israel?

**A:** When we talk about a liberation in stages we talk about a truce only. But we will not recognise the usurpation and occupation of Palestine, nor will we give up the rest of the Palestinians' national rights.

**Q:** You are against the existence of a Jewish state then?

**A:** Yes. That would be like rewarding aggression, something that all divine religions and international legal conventions and charters reject.

**Q:** But it seems the majority of Palestinians accepts Oslo, even if grudgingly, and seeks to gain its rights incrementally. You do you compare your stand with what seems to be a majority Palestinian support for the Oslo approach?

**A:** After four years Oslo did not achieve anything for the Palestinian people. The agreement has failed. It continues not because of its achievements or the Palestinian people's faith in it, but rather due to American and international support. The agreement failed because Israel does not believe in it nor is it willing to compromise. On the other hand the Palestinian people are not behind the Oslo agreement. Those who gave the agreement a chance four years ago now believe it will not work. The life of the Palestinian people has become black and grim, the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners were not released, Israeli settlement building goes on, by-pass roads are being built, killing of our people goes on, threats to Jerusalem and Hebron persist, no Palestinian refugees were allowed back home.

**Q:** Hamas uses a form of armed resistance which the West and many others in the world call terrorism, especially when targeted against civilians. Is Hamas considering relatively less armed struggle and relatively more political struggle? Or are things going to stay as they are?

**A:** The accusation of terrorism does not scare us. Because we are not terrorists. We are practising a right that is guaranteed to all peoples: the right to resist occupation. Real terror is that embodied in the Zionist entity: The experience of the last two weeks is a testimony. Israel practises state terrorism, international terrorism, technological terrorism. It considers all the capabilities of the world its own even if it violates the sanctity of a friendly state like Canada and a country with which it has a peace treaty like Jordan. When the enemy violates the sovereignty of Jordan that is a proof that it does not respect peace or abide by peace treaties. The Palestinian people have no choice but to resist, especially after the failure of all other options. Did the world fulfil its obligations towards the Palestinian people? Did the superpowers and the U.N. look with fairness at the plight of the Palestinian people? Did these countries that claim to upbold human rights help the Palestinians regain their rights, as they did with South Africa for example? No they did not. And the Palestinian people have therefore no choice but to resist until the enemy retreats and withdraws.

Khaled Misha'al

**Q:** In your opinion do operations like those suicide bombs in Jerusalem bring closer the realisation of the Palestinian people's rights, especially since these operations seem to elicit negative world public opinion, and are you concerned that perhaps Hamas' brand of armed resistance against Israel merely strengthens the right-wing in Israel?

**A:** To start with, Hamas is against the targetting of civilians despite the fact that the Israel society is an armed society. There are 300,000 settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who are all armed, while our people are not. What makes the Palestinians carry out such operations is the state of oppression that they endure and suffer. Netanyahu's policies of closure, seige, starvation, expulsion, deportation, destruction of infrastructure, houses and trees, aggressinn against our holy places, insults against humans and their religion, insults against the Prophet Mohammad and the Virgin Mary — all these and more are what made our people reach this state of explosion. That is the responsibility of Netanyahu and the result of the Israeli occupation. On the other hand, resistance is a legitimate right. In the days of the cold war, states armed themselves because by doing so they reached a balance of power and deterred aggression. But when there are two sides — one strong and the other weak — then you have to create some sort of balance to stop the aggressor and deter further aggression.

**Q:** Do you think Hamas is approaching enough balance with Israel to engage itself in a political rather than a military battle?

**A:** This is contingent on a change, even partial, in the balance of power and on the enemy becoming convinced that the continuation of occupation is extremely costly. This can only be achieved through continued resistance. In that context, Israel's talk of a non-conditional withdrawal from Lebanon only started after the heavy losses that they sustained through the steadfastness of resistance in south Lebanon. It might take longer in Palestine, but we will reach the same results.

**Q:** Does Hamas think of reviving the intifada and halting military operations against Israel?

**A:** As long as occupation persists and Palestinian rights are usurped and the enemy's violations of these rights inside and outside Palestine continue, and as long as five million Palestinians remain refugees, the Palestinian people will use all available options to resist — whether through military operations or intifada — and until liberation and our return to our land are achieved.

**Q:** We hear talk in the press of Sheikh Yassin speaking of a possible truce between Hamas and Israel; what is the reality of this talk from your perspective?

**A:** What Sheikh Yassin said about a truce is not new; he offered it before. Hamas is not against transitional liberation of the West Bank and Gaza. We accept that part of Palestine be liberated as a step towards the whnle liberation of Palestine and towards achieving all our rights. The withdrawal must be real, and settlements must be dismantled and settlers removed. Sovereignty for us must be complete. We are not against that. A future moment might come when the conditions for that are right. But these developments can only be achieved through continued resistance and at least some change in the balance of power.

**Q:** You are then ready for an interim solution, but in the long run you refuse to coexist with a Jewish state?

**A:** Of course.

**Q:** Since Hamas refuses to engage Israel in talks how can a truce be reached?

**A:** That can be achieved through the compounded and cumulative consequences of resistance. When the enemy feels that the cost of occupation is very high it will give in. Then some arrangements can be worked out. Meanwhile, there is no use in contacting Israeli parties, since that will only be begging the Israelis, as happened in Oslo.

**Q:** What if Yasser Arafat is out of the picture in the near future, for some reason. How do you envision developments in Palestinian political society?

**A:** Our stand has not changed. We are keen on safeguarding the higher interests of our people and maintaining our unity, whether in the time of Arafat or after him. We are not in competition, nor do we want to replace, anybody. We are also not in the stage of dividing the spoils or the political cake that is on offer. Our concern is the interest of our people.

**Q:** What is the role of Iran in the Palestinian cause, and what are your relations with Iran and your evaluation of its role in this area?

**A:** Iran certainly takes a good political stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause and is supportive of our rights against the forces of occupation. We have a good relationship with Iran and all the Arab and Muslim countries. These are balanced and equal relations.

**Q:** Do you think Hamas represents a minority of the Palestinian people or do you feel that the majority of Palestinians now supports or will soon support Hamas' stand?

**A:** Hamas is an Islamic movement in its ideas, ideology and vision. We start from the civilisational base of our nation. Hamas is open to all our people, Muslim or Christian. They all have the same rights. We open our hearts to all Palestinian forces, whether nationalist or leftist. Hamas is getting more support because it is morally and financially sound, clear and transparent movement. We, therefore, think that the majority of Palestinians supports us. We express the yearning of the masses not only in Palestine but in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

**Q:** Would Hamas take part in Palestinian presidential and parliamentary elections in the future?

**A:** If you look at Palestinian elections for professional associations, students' bodies, labour unions, and other bodies, all have been won by Hamas candidates. That is an indication of the popular support for Hamas, and of the fact that the movement is consistently gaining strength among the public.

**Q:** After the assassination attempt on your life have you considered changing the nature of your work with Hamas?

***We accept that part of Palestine be liberated as a step towards the whole liberation of Palestine and towards achieving all our rights.***

**A:** My work is political and informational. I defend my cause and my people, and this is my duty. The assassination attempt will not make me change my work. On the contrary, it only boosts my role, which I will carry on, regardles of what may happen. I am proud to be in the service of my people and nation.

**Q:** Was Hamas party to the deal between Jordan and Israel which resulted in the release of Sheikh Yassin and other prisoners in exchange for the Mossad agents?

**A:** Very clearly Hamas stresses that it was not a party to this deal or any other deal. We have always said openly that the Mossad agents must be investigated, tried and then punished. This crime required a strong and deterring response, so that Mossad will not repeat its attempt on Jordanian soil.

**Q:** Do you expect Israel to halt its attempts to liquidate Hamas leaders abroad?

**A:** Terrorism is part of the nature of our enemy. The Zionist entity was created in the first place by terrorising the Palestinian people. We don't expect Israel to halt terror. That is why we have to be stronger and steadfast to foil the enemy's designs.

**Q:** You said you were not part of the deal between Jordan and Israel, but are you satisfied with the deal? Are there secret parts to it?

**A:** Certainly we are not satisfied with the deal. We regret the path that the developments took. And since we were not party to the deal we do not know its details.

**Q:** Sheikh Yassin appealed to King Hussein to work for the release of the rest of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Wasn't that a pointer towards the deal that was struck?

**A:** What Sheikh Yassin did in his press conference before leaving Jordan was to appeal to the King to help free the prisoners. That appeal did not fall within the framework of the deal that came about. Sheikh Yassin and we in Hamas believe that the few thousand Palestinian prisoners in Israel jails are the responsibility of everybody, and all of us should work for their release because they were defending their people and their nation.

# Learning geography would be more fun with maps

By Richard Tanner.

GEOGRAPHY IS of course about the world but it needs to be studied at a range of scales. One should start from where one lives, the local and known, before venturing out into one's region, Jordan, the Arab World and the world at large. It should be practical and relevant, engaging its learners in a range of skills, the most vital of which is mapwork.

Herein lies the problem: Where are the local maps? And, in a country where topographical maps are classified, where are the people who can use them, let alone teach about them?

If one uses foreign map and textbooks, and foreign teachers trained in their use, this, as well as being expensive, loses the relevance of the "local and known." Though practical, the learning is not related to the child's immediate experiences.

My solution to this conundrum has been to use the best of British and Commonwealth techniques applied to a Jordanian context. Over the past 25 years, geography in Britain has been transformed from that dull recitation of countries and landscapes into a dynamic, practical and scientific subject whose popularity has grown in leaps and bounds.

Like biology breaking out of classification, geography measures and maps, hypotheses and analyses, discusses and makes decisions about people and the environment. Whether looking at population control or urban management environmental or industrial issues, water or tourism, it gathers data to sort, map and graph before making judgements — where are the earthquake-prone areas of Amman, why should we plant trees on watersheds, where is the best location for a new ice-cream parlour in Sweifiyeh, how should traffic flows be managed around the cafeteria at break times? Where is El Nino likely to have the most impact? Rarely is a modern development or environmental project started without a geographer or planner on the team.

How should schools respond to this transformation from rote-learning and colouring maps? Our school team has taken a member of new geography books to make a structured sequence of skills. We've then tried to set these in a Jordanian context. We live in Amman, so we study its sites, situation and growth, setting projects on the children's own neighbourhoods which can be compared, before moving onto other towns in Jordan and the world. The work is practical, using photographs, descriptions, statistics and graphs for the learners to develop their skills and apply their knowledge.

We've written our own textbook, beginning with settlement and going on to farming and industry. We ask children to look at the terraced hills and ploughed valley bottoms by our school, to study weather and soil in different parts of the Kingdom and compare farming types there. They visit the Jordan Valley and other farms to apply their knowledge.

With industry, we look at the factors affecting its location, visit Fuheis cement works, the Pepsi factory and others for comparison, and try to understand development in Jordan. The idea is that children learn to make rational decisions, to become planners and project managers in the real world.

But maps remain a problem. The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) has been kind enough to print some map extracts from their extensive collection of topographical maps. Students can use maps of our school area to study landscape at first-hand: Central Amman for the site of the original village and town, Ramtha, Wadi Mujib and Wadi Rum for comparison with different regions of Jordan. We're grateful because not only can we teach map skills in a Jordanian context and illustrate our coursework with local maps, but we can show our youngsters the power of the map.

Map reading is the literacy of the geographer. We realise that this power is held too by our neighbours, Syria, Iraq, Saudi and Israel and Palestine, each of which has posed threats to Jordan in this century. That's why the RJGC is keeping a tight grip on its maps, so getting one is like getting gold out of Fort Knox. Which is sad because RJGC has a wonderful collection of beautifully drawn maps which every Jordanian should be proud of. Every traveller would love to own several and that would help defray the costs of RJGC's work in producing them — the equivalent business in Britain, the Ordnance Survey, was privatised under Margaret Thatcher.

Few schools have access to this resource, limiting the scope of their teaching and learning. However, with new technology, some have access to satellite images manipulated by computer to show even greater detail than topographical maps. Given that our neighbours have such technology and that a $200 Global Positioning System monitor can use 7 satellites over Jordan to give one's altitude and location to within 10 metres, the strategic value of the topographical map is declining by the day.

So isn't it now time for the RJGC to open its doors wider, to invite young Jordanians to see its splendid work and to offer schools, businesses and visitors real maps at commercial prices? People would then be able to find their way around Jordan without asking other people who don't know either.

*The writer, an ex-principal of a British school, is now teaching at Amman Baccalaureate School. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.*

# Amman municipality estimates revenues at JD61.7m for 1998

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipal Council will Tuesday debate the capital's 1998 fiscal budget which is estimated to total JD66.85 million.

According to council sources, the overall revenues expected during next year will amount to JD61.75 million , registering n 4.1 per cent increase over the total revenues of 1997 whicb were estimated at JD 59.297 million.

The sources also said that the total estimated expenditures next year will amount to JD65.85 million. As such, a deficit of JD4.1 million is expected.

Available information about the revenues so far this year shows that the Municipality of Greater Amman was able to collect JD46.02 million.

The sources said the recurrent spending expected for 1998 amount to JD29.34 million, a decline of 5.3 per cent from the 1997 figure. Recurrent expenses during the first nine month of this year have reached JD23.3 million.

The draft 1998 fiscal budget allocated JD5.5 million to capital expenditure, JD350,000 to consultations, JD2.2 million for road maintenance, JD2 million for new roads, JD5.2 million for asphalting roads, JD2.11 million for the purcbase of new machinery, JD1.135 million for improving street lighting, JD0.35 million for building culverts, JD1.1 million for different installations, JD0.29 million to buy construction materials and JD1.15 million to build retaining walls

The draft budget contains allocations of JD12 million to construct tunnels for cars and building offices for the municipality's employees while the total amount of salaries for the employees were estimated at JD20.4 million.

# Jordan, Iraq discuss expanding ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki Sunday reviewed with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Mahdi Saleh means of expanding cooperation in economic and trade fields between the two countries.

Dr. Saleh said in a statement that Jordanian-Iraqi ties are improving in terms of the volume of trade.

"Iraqi imports during the second phase of the protocol have risen by 20 per cent and our purchases through the Port of Aqaba have increased up to 400,000 tonnes from 250,000 tonnes," added Dr. Saleh.

"The volume of trade between the two countries by the end of this year will amount to $1 billion," he indicated.

Dr. Mulki said Jordan has asked the concerned parties that other products, such as cables, electrical appliances and reinforced steel, be sold to Iraq.

# *Japan's overdue tax reaches $22.3b*

TOKYO (AFP) — Overdue taxes owed to the Japanese government reached a record-high 2,703 billion yen ($22.3 billion) as of the end of March, 1997, tax agency officials have said. The previous high was 2,278 billion yen marked a year earlier, the National Tax Administration officials said. Of the total, 1,173 billion yen of tax payments were overdue for more than a year and 310.2 billion yen were found to be uncollectable, they said. Consumption tax topped the list of newly reported tax payments in arrears in the year to March at 430 billion yen for four straight years, the officials said.

# Israeli minister warns research cuts hurt economy

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's industry and trade minister Sunday warned the cabinet that cutting research and development grants to the high technology sector would endanger the economy, the ministry said in a statement.

Natan Sharansky told the weekly cabinet meeting that higb technology was responsible for 80 per cent of Israel's total industrial exports and was the country's main engine for growth.

"In order to preserve the attractiveness of the high-tech industry the government must pursue a stable policy of rsearch and development assistance," the ministry quoted Mr. Sharansky as saying.

The treasury, as part of wider spending cuts slated for 1998, says it wants to cut the budget of the Office of the Chief Scientist, which distributes research and development assistance to high-tecb companies. The office is a unit of the industry ministry.

Chief scientist Orna Berryn told the cabinet there was already a 450 million shekel shortage in her budget this year.

She said if they could not obtain aid, companies would be forced to freeze their research and development budgets and transfer some of their research spending overseas.

"This sbortage greatly harms the economy's chance of returning to the kind of growth we were hoping for," the ministry quoted her as saying.

Israel's economy is growing at its slowest rate in seven years, but a treasury report issued last week said the low growth reflected rapid expansion of the technology sector as traditional sectors were contracting.

Meanwhile, Israel's bigh technology is drawing increasing numbers of international investors who are not discouraged by the crisis-ridden peace process, which has been locked in stalemate for 16 months.

A plethora of small information, biotechnology, telecommunications and electronics companies has been set up and is attracting capital in search of quick profits.

The exports io these sectors, which are expected to reach $7 billion this year, are seeing annual growth of 30 per cent, said Dr. Berryn.

Claude Laloum, chief of the Europe department of the major Israeli bank Hapoalim, said: "These companies are not affected hy political tensions, because they only use a few dozen engineers wbo could easily be transferred to another region if war breaks out"

During the month of September alone, possibilities for participation have multiplied.

Deutsche Telekom, the German telecommunications giant, bought 21.1 per cent of the capital of Vocal Tec for $48.3 million.

The small Israeli company specialises in transmitting telephone conversations and video images oo the Internet.

The U.S. company Cylink acquired for $83 million the Algorithmic company, which focuses on protection systems for financial transactions and credit card purchases over the Internet.

The poteotial market is huge, because the risk of embezzling money has so far hampered the Weh's commerical development.

The Haifa researcb centre of the U.S. microprocessors giant Intel was concentrating on new chips with a large capacity for handling information.

The chips should allow portable computers to be as high performance as computers in offices.

The same research centre in northern Israel invented the MMX technology used in the latest Intel microprocessors.

Major international corporations believe that it is more cost-effective to invest in a country where, with workers who have comparable training, the salaries are on average less than two-thirds of those paid in the United States or in Europe, Mr. Laloum said.

There is no shortage of brains bere: The proportion of scientists and researchers is 135 for every 10,000 Israelis, compared to only 85 for every 10,000 people in the United States.

However, the cutting-edge companies still lack specialised labour. Another 3,000 engineers are required to fulfill the demand, the trade and industry ministry said.

Athena Software Services, an information company in the Tel Aviv area, has tried to get around this obstacle by offering "American salaries" to the approximately 1,500 expatriate Israeli engineers working in California, to get them to come home.

Since the beginning of the year, foreign investment on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange has reached $500 million , a 50 per cent jump compared to the same period last year.

The Israeli private sector has also invested.

Pension funds, whicb have a comfortable financial mattress, have been authorised to invest in high technology.

The capital mobilised by 40 funds specialising in risk capital bas increased in the last decade from $50 million to $800 million.

"For many of these funds, we are in third place in the world after Silicon Valley in California and the Boston area," Erel Margalit, manager of investment company Jerusalem Venture Partners, said.

In this area, Israel's Gemini Capital Fund Management Ltd. said Sunday it had completed raising $110 million for a new venture capital fund investing in Israeli high technology companies.

Gemini said in a statement that 90 per cent of the capital for the Gemini Israel II Fund had been raised from institutions, some of them investing for the first time in Israel.

Of the total, $35 million is a specialised pool that will support only larger deals, Gemini said.

Gemini, which launched the fund raising campaign in the first-quarter of this year, said the new fund would be geared towards early stage technology companies and take an active role in their strategic management.

Gemini formed its first venture capital fund, Gemini Israel I, in 1993. Today most of its $36 million in capital is invested in 30 high-ech companies. Gemini said its new fund had already invested $5 million in five companies.

Gemini is sponsored by Advent International of Boston together with Discount Investment corp. and PEC Israel Economic Corp..

# Fed vice chairman sees 'pressures' on U.S. economic horizon

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The deputy head of the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) bas warned of "pressures" on the U.S. economic horizon but said there were no current imbalances that threatened expansion.

Fed Vice Chairman Alice Rivlin, interviewed by CNBC Television, also described the situation in Japan as "worrisome" but did not elaborate.

She was speaking a day after the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, sent shockwaves through U.S. financial markets with warnings that the U.S. economy remained particularly vulnerable to wage-driven inflation.

Ms. Rivlin, who said the economy was going "very well," tried to calm the storm by recalling that "it's the job of the central bank (the Federal Reserve) to worry, worry about bow long this will last and whether it's sustainable."

She said: "The Fed is watching this very favourable set of economic statistics and thinking about the future — is the economy growing too rapidly, at an unstainable rate or not? We're not sure yet."

Mr. Greenspan last week jolted Wall Street with his observation that the U.S. economy was on an "unsustainable track" because of increasingly tight labour markets.

The fear, he said, is that demand for labour in a flourishing economy will outstrip labour supply, meaning that employers will have to pay more to attact workers who are currently not even looking for a job.

Higher employment costs, according to the Fed, could eventually be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Ms. Rivlin said the Federal Reserve realises that "it's been a very long expansion and a very favourable set of circumstances — and that there are some pressures on the horizon that need to be thought about."

Chief among them is wage-driven inflation.

But for the moment, according to Ms. Rivlin, such pressures are not apparent.

"Wage pressures have been quite moderate in this expansion and, considering that labour markets are very tight ... we have not seen extraordinary wage increases, she said.

"But if the unemployment rate should drop much further and if we run out of employable people, then we might be in a more pressury situation," she added.

She stressed that for the moment there appeared to be no imbalances that seriously threatened growth, notably as the expansion has been uniform across the country and across economic sectors.

"I think it means our economy is increasingly flexible," she told an interviewer. "People move to jobs, jobs move to people."

Asked about developments elsewhere, she noted that European economies were "coming back" but cautioned that "the Japanese situation does look worrisome."

# HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1997

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Look carefully at your financial status today and you'll see there's a method you can easily improve it. Put your home in order for socialising later this evening and you will gain the admiration of all your guests and close friends.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Do whatever will improve your health and appearance this morning. Be sure you get any important appointments set up early today, thereby you can plan what method of operation, which you plan to use.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Talk over with your mate today how to be more successful in the days ahead. Go out on the town later this evening and have a wonderful time together at some romantic location which you have been previously.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Your close friends can belp you today make your social life more interesting and profitable. Start working on your goals at this time and thereby you can gain the recognition and respect of those in authority.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Budget your time carefully today so that you'll have time for personal and recreational matters. Get together with your best friends later this evening and plan just where you would like to go for some fun activities.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You'll have an excellent opportunity to make some highly beneficial business contacts today, so follow through with these. Use both your intellect and cbarm to impress he or she with method of operation for success.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get busy at fulfilling any promises you have made today, especially those made to your mate, otherwise there could be quite a difficult situation present. Much care in motion is necessary at this time to avoid any difficulties.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get in touch with your allies before noon today, and finalise any plans whicb you have on the drawing board. Have a romantic evening with your mate at some special location which is important and memorable.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You can accomplish much this morning by simply applying yourself seriously. Try to cooperate more with your fellow associates and thereby everyone will be successful as a resnlt of the joint effort.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Do what you can to help your loved ones achieve their goals today, however, reserve some time for yourself, otherwise you could be friend from the tension in your life. Later this evening meet with close friends.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Do wbstever is necessary to improve the conditions at home today, however, go out for a good time with your mate or close friends. Be supportive of loyal fellow associates who have been quite helpful.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Attend to any important messages this morning. Celebrate any special occasion with your mate, especially if this is the day which you both excbanged wedding voews and have some special romantic plans in mind.

**Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline**

DA JANI ewelry

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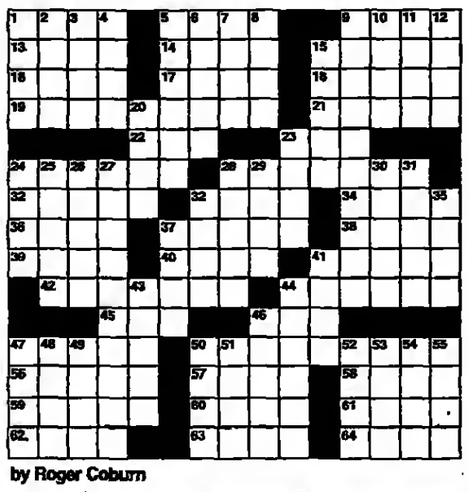
## THE Daily Crossword

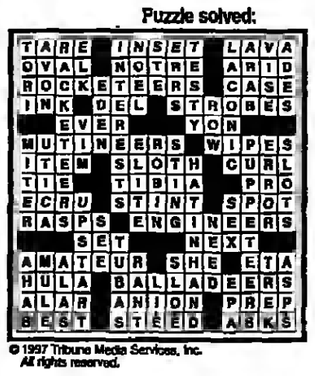


ACROSS
1 Influence
5 Level
9 Spelunker's arena
13 Suit to —
14 Addled
15 Stickler
16 Scoria
17 Getz or Freberg
18 Diving birds
19 Neat
21 Michael Caine film
22 "— the ramparts..."
23 Cinder
24 Huckster
28 Secures
32 Tramontane
33 Gossip
34 Whale chaser
36 — days' wonder
37 Like a fish
38 Bird of peace
39 Traffic sign
40 Theater box
41 Quartet voice
42 Tangle
44 Up-to-date
45 Eternity
46 Defeat at bridge
47 Brilliance
50 Expedient
56 Trough
57 Actor Estrada
58 Citrus fruit
59 Prepared an apple
60 Wander aimlessly
61 Petit —
62 Gave the once-over
63 Pitcher
64 Gratis

DOWN
1 Buddies
2 Beehive state
3 Son of Leah
4 Hurdle
5 Bacon serving
6 "— Is Born"
7 Tidal stage
8 "Citizen —"
9 Composed
10 Beginning with
11 Start of Caesar's boast
12 Irish Gaelic
15 Spatter
20 Forthwith
23 Court figure: abbr.:
24 Lorries
25 Size of type
26 Synthetic fabric
27 Ingrained
28 Nuance
29 Sea eagle
30 Geneva's river
31 Experience
33 Christian
35 Swiss capital
37 Tart
41 Children
43 Famous
44 More timid
46 Shave leather
47 — homo!
48 Bok —
49 Come-on
50 Scant
51 In a line
52 Fit of anger
53 Composer Stravinsky
54 Furnace channel
55 Fatigue

by Roger Coburn

Puzzle solved:



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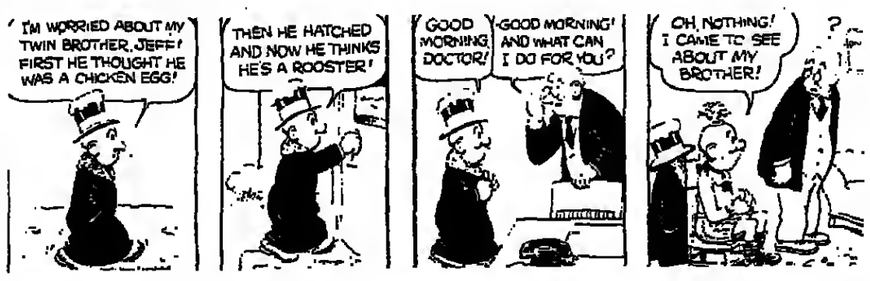
## Peanuts

## Andy Capp

## Mutt'n'Jeff




## THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"I had a difficult childhood. My imaginary friend used to beat me up and take my lunch money."

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENGOM

REHKI

SHORUC

DROICH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer :

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NEWSY CANAL MEMORY ATTACH
Answer: When the newscaster went sailing it was — ANCHOR'S AWAY

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## Daily Business Beat

*A review of news from the Arabic Press*

# *JIC seeks investors to buy JD6m worth of state equity in 4 firms*

**THE GOVERNMENT intends to sell its equity of around 1.4 million shares in four public shareholding companies and is accepting offers from interested parties until the end of this month. The sales include 587,000 shares in the Jordan paper and Cardboard Company. 150,000 shares in the Jordan Tanning Company, 142,000 shares in the Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company and 565,000 shares in the Jordan Worsted Mills Company.

The volume of the sales could be as high as JD6 million according to the market prices of the shares. Based on JD2.700 per share, the shares in the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Company will yield JD1.6 million while those in the tanning firm will bring JD0.700 million based on JD4.700 per share. Proceeds from the Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company and the Jordan Worsted Mill are expected to be JD227,000 and JD3.8 million based on JD1.600 and JD6.800 per share respectively.

According to the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), the government's investment arm, many local, Arab and foreign companies and investors have approached the corporation to benefit from large sales of government equity in a number of industrial entities. JIC Investment Director Abdul Elah Al Rousan has emphasised that the government actually intends to withdraw from the four mentioned companies within the framework of expediting the wide-ranging privatisation programmes which the government has considered a fixed policy.

Mr. Rousan indicated that the government will select the best offer noting that the shares may be sold in large deals if such a manner gives better prices. However, he did not belittle the importance of individual offers as they may be more attractive.

The JIC has more than JD0.5 billion of equity in various companies but the corporation did not reveal any new plans for unloading this volume of government investments to the private sector. Yet, government assurances about speeding up the privatisation process recently hinted that new deals may be offered soon.

The JIC stressed that it is seeking "good" buyers and that it will not be selling "for the sake of selling" (Al Ra'i).

## REUTERS — The Business of Information

**Major Currencies & Cross Rates** — Prices as at ..... 12/10/97 17:41

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | - | 1.7505 | 0.6158 | 1.4605 | 120.05 | 1.3733 | 1721.06 | 1.9720 | 5.8715 |
| DE Mark | 0.5713 | - | 0.3516 | 0.8342 | 68.58 | 0.7843 | 982.90 | 1.1266 | 3.3556 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6238 | 2.8333 | - | 2.3577 | 193.66 | 2.2300 | 2794.66 | 3.2021 | 9.5341 |
| CH Franc | 0.6847 | 119.82 | 0.4214 | - | 82.19 | 0.9400 | 1178.00 | 135.38 | 4.0188 |
| JP Yen | 0.0083 | 1.4569 | 0.5124 | 1.2156 | - | 1.1430 | 14.32 | 164.13 | 4.8868 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7282 | 1.2660 | 0.4471 | 1.0565 | 1.14 | - | 1247.46 | 1.4257 | 4.2427 |
| IT Lira | 0.0006 | 1.0165 | 0.3575 | 0.0848 | 1435.54 | 0.7975 | - | 11.45 | 3.4096 |
| NL Guilder | 0.5071 | 88.72 | 0.3129 | 74.84 | 60.84 | 0.6960 | 872.31 | - | 2.9759 |
| FR Franc | 0.1703 | 0.2978 | 0.1047 | 24.8427 | 20.42 | 0.2336 | 33.54 | 33.5400 | - |

**Middle Eastern Currencies**

| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BAH | QAT | KUW | AED | JPY | EGP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | - | 0.7080 | 3.7505 | 0.3770 | 3.6402 | 0.3038 | 3.6729 | 1536.75 | 3.3875 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4124 | - | 5.2973 | 0.5325 | 5.1415 | 0.4290 | 5.1877 | 2170.55 | 4.7846 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.1888 | - | 0.1005 | 0.97 | 0.0810 | 0.98 | 409.75 | 0.9032 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.65 | 1.8780 | 9.9485 | - | 9.66 | 0.8057 | 9.74 | 4076.37 | 8.9858 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1945 | 1.0303 | 1.0303 | - | 0.0834 | 1.01 | 422.18 | 0.9306 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2922 | 2.3309 | 12.3473 | 1.2411 | 11.98 | - | 12.09 | 5059.26 | 11.1506 |
| Emirates Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1928 | 1.0211 | 0.1026 | 0.9911 | 0.0827 | - | 418.40 | 0.9223 |
| Lebanese/1000 | 0.65 | 0.4607 | 2.4405 | 0.2453 | 2.3688 | 0.1977 | 2.3900 | - | 2.2043 |
| Egyptian | 0.2952 | 0.2090 | 1.1072 | 0.1113 | 1.0746 | 0.0897 | 1.0843 | 453.65 | - |

**Energy**

| Oils | Last | Previous |
|---|---|---|
| Brent | 21.01 | 20.88 |
| W. Texas | 21.98 | 21.98 |
| Bonny | 21.01 | 20.88 |
| Dubai | 19.40 | 19.65 |
| UL Gas | 205.00 | 199.00 |

**Mid-East Currencies**

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SA Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.4669 | 0.1642 | 0.38954 | 32.0359 |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.47674 | 0.16767 | 0.39777 | 32.7129 |
| KW Dinar | 3.2922 | 5.76369 | 2.02758 | 4.81 | 395.57 |
| BH Dinar | 0.3770 | 4.64468 | 1.63345 | 3.87597 | 318.674 |
| CY Pound | 1.9236 | 3.3673 | 1.1843 | 2.8094 | 230.928 |

*** JOD Cross Rates**

| Currency | Buy | Sell |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 |
| GB Sterling | 1.1486 | 1.1543 |
| DE Mark | 0.404 | 0.406 |
| CH Franc | 0.4842 | 0.4866 |
| FR Franc | 0.1204 | 0.121 |
| JP Yen | 0.5903 | 0.5933 |
| NL Guilder | 0.3585 | 0.3603 |
| IT Lira | 0.4106 | 0.4127 |

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

**Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)**

| Period / Cncy | 1 Month | 3 Months | 6 Months | 9 Months | 1 Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| USD | 5.54 | 5.65 | 5.72 | 5.83 | 5.88 |
| GBP | 7.06 | 7.25 | 7.30 | 7.31 | 7.46 |
| JPY | 0.43 | 0.50 | 0.45 | 0.47 | 0.51 |
| DEM | 3.32 | 3.50 | 3.63 | 3.62 | 3.96 |
| FRF | 3.27 | 3.54 | 3.65 | 3.62 | 3.97 |
| CHF | 1.43 | 1.56 | 1.76 | 1.81 | 1.83 |
| ITL | 6.74 | 6.68 | 6.38 | 6.12 | 5.93 |

**Main Equity Indices**

| Bourse | Index | Value | Chng | % Chng | High | Low | Pcls |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NewYork | DOW JONES | 8045.21 | -16.21 | -0.2 | 8059.45 | 8002.73 | 8061.42 |
| Newyork | S&P 500 | 966.98 | -3.64 | -0.38 | 970.62 | 963.42 | 970.62 |
| London | FT-SE 100 | 5227.3 | 9.5 | 0.18 | 5227.3 | 5186.7 | 5217.8 |
| Tokyo | NIKKIE 225 | 17376.92 | -242.26 | -1.37 | 17627.6 | 17339.7 | 17619.2 |
| Paris | CAC 40 | 2955.11 | -5.54 | -0.19 | 2957.56 | 2906.81 | 2960.65 |
| Frankfurt | DAX | 4188.52 | -54.49 | -1.28 | 4203.25 | 4155.48 | 4243.01 |

# Oil majors eye Iran for rich pickings

DUBAI (AFP) — Hemmed in by nationalisation, civil war or U.N. sanctions in the Arab World, the oil majors see Iran and its rich energy resources waiting to be tapped as their best bet for big contracts.

The French firm Total, which last month announced a $2 billion deal to develop Iran's offshore South Pars gas field, is the first to risk the wrath of Washington for investing in the Islamic republic.

The Middle East and North Africa have 70 per cent of the world's oil resources and 34 per cent of its gas.

Iran is the country most open to foreign oil companies and its reserves of 21 trillion cubic metres of natural gas rank as the second highest in the world, after Russia.

An official of a European firm said foreign groups are needed in gas projects for their technology and financing, both of which run at a far higher level than needed for oil, a state monopoly.

South Pars is only one of 11 gas and oil projects which Tehran opened to foreign companies in 1995 and which have already attracted TPL of Italy and a Chinese firm.

U.S. firms are out of the game. Already in 1995, Conoco had to abandon the development of Iran's Sirri field to Total, under pressure from Congress.

Since 1996, the D'Amato law calls for sanctions on any U.S. or foreign cumpany which invests more than $40 million in a petrochemical project in Iran or Libya, both of which the United States regards as supporters of terrorism.

But Jean-Luc Vermeulen, a director of Elf Aquitaine, another major French energy group, told the Arab Oil and Gas magazine that the company was seeking to expand in the region.

"We are thinking especially of Iraq and Iran," he said.

Elf, which pulled out of Iran after its 1979 Islamic revolution, is in talks with Tehran concerning extraction of oil from the offshore field of Dorud in the Gulf.

"If Total does not give in" to U.S. pressure, "several European companies will also go into Iran," predicted Naji Abi Aad, an adviser to the France-based consultants Observatoire Mediterraneen de l'Energie.

He said that Iraq, which has the second-highest oil reserves in the world after Saudi Arabia, is another good bet for foreign companies as "75 per cent of its territory is unexplored."

Baghdad also needs huge investments.

The French, Russians and Chinese are waiting for the lifting of the U.N. sanctions in force since 1990 to start developing giant fields in the south and centre of Iraq. The Turks have their sights set on northern gas fields.

"Iraq will be the Texas of the Middle East after the lifting of sanctions," Mr. Abi Aad said.

Elsewhere, Algeria, which has the largest resources in Nonh Africa, is in the throes of a civil war. Eighty per cent of the country has yet to be explored for oil, according to an Algerian oil official.

The D'Amatu law, as well as a U.N. embargo restricting exports of oil industry equipment to Tripoli, have served as a deterrent to oil companies to Libya.

And since nationalisation in the 1970s, the lucrative sector of production in oil superpower Saudi Arabia and neighbouring Kuwait is closed to foreign companies.

In Kuwait, Total, Chevron and British Petroleum have secured contracts to advise the state-run oil company in the hope that they might be better positioned if the country does reopen.

Foreign firms operate in the UAE, which holds 9.9 per cent of world reserves, but they are not offered the arrangements which oil majors favour most, such as production-sharing or concession agreements.

Those types of deals are mostly restricted to minor oil producers in the region, such as Oman, Qatar and Yemen. Both these countries are focusing efforts, particularly in the case of Qatar, on under-developed gas reserves.

Oil holds the key for the foreign companies.

# *Lloyd's proposes insurance against rogue traders*

LONDON (AFP) — Lloyd's of London is to offer banks an insurance policy to protect them from rogue traders such as Nick Leeson who bankrupted Barings in 1995.

The famous British insurance underwriter will provided cover of at least 100 million pounds ($160 million), SVB syndicates which is launching the policy, believed to be the first of its kind, has said.

Nick Leeson, dealing for Barings out of Singapore, lost more than 800 million pounds ($1.2 billion) on Asian markets with risky placements handled through secret accounts.

In September 1995, Japan's Daiwa Bank announced it had lost more than a billion dollars in unauthorised dealings over several years by one of its New York agents.

Lloyd's new policy will apply to traders who have made commitments in excess of permitted limits, traded in unauthorised instruments or traded with unapproved dealers.

Lloyd's maintains that these type of losses, which have multiplied in recent years, are not covered by existing insurance policies because the trader has not been involved in fraud for personal gain.

Rogue traders are ofen pushed to outperform the market, cover mistakes or make up for earlier losses.

Greed, with the prospect of commissions and high bonuses, or simply power and ego trips are some of the reaons put forward for the rogue trading.

To qualify for the new policies, however, banks will have to show they have put in place the necessary internal controls.

# South African companies merge to form world's largest gold producer

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — South African mining giants Gencor and Gold Fields have announced a merger to create the world's largest gold producer, Goldco.

In an elaborate deal, the two companies will combine their gold operations, exploration assets, mineral rights and the ownership of three of South Africa's premier gold mines — Driefontein, Kloof and Beatrix, the companies said in a joint statement.

Gold Fields and Gencor currently produce a combined four million ounces of gold a year, with a market capitalisation of 17 billion rand ($3.7 billion), according to company figures.

The new entity will hold total reserves of about 120 million ounces of ore, the statement added.

Company executives have not, however, put a value on the transaction, which involves the exchange of shares and stakes in both companies and the South African holding firm Asteroid.

A major South African black business consortium, New Africa Investments Limited (NAIL), has been given the option to acquire between five and 10 per cent of Goldco, officials added.

The new firm aims to reduce costs by combining operational and technical activities and cancelling or disposing of "management contracts and service agreements," the joint statement said.

The agreement, in which executives of the two companies have signed a memorandum of understanding, will be completed in 20 to 24 months, Gold Fields spokesman Billy Jacobsz told AFP.

The new company will "look closely at the possibility of eliminating underperforming assets ... including several mines if they cannot be brought to account," Mr. Jacobsz said.

However, neither existing companies expected to lay off "significant numbers" of staff, he said.

Mr. Jacobsz would not speculate on what effect the merger would have on the world gold price. "We expect the share price of both companies to go up as a result," he said, however.

In their statement, the companies warned shareholders to "exercise caution in dealing in their shares," adding: "A further announcement will be made in due course."

**AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET**
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 12/10/1997

| | PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH | LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF TRANS. | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 346.000 | 241.500 | ARAB BANK | 15.3 | 1.20 | 4 | 80 | 26690 | 335.50 | 332.50 | 3.00- |
| | 2.340 | 1.680 | JOR.NATIONAL BK. | E | 0.00 | 12 | 6550 | 12584 | 1.94 | 1.91 | .03- |
| | 5.800 | 4.100 | CAIRO AMMAN BANK | 10.3 | 3.00 | 3 | 2390 | 11872 | 4.90 | 5.00 | .10+ |
| | 1.190 | .890 | MID.EAST INV.BK. | 74.2 | 0.00 | 13 | 62250 | 72784 | 1.17 | 1.13 | .04- |
| | 2.600 | 2.150 | INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK. | 10.2 | 6.16 | 16 | 7350 | 18882 | 2.57 | 2.57 | - |
| | 5.200 | 4.600 | THE HOUSING BK. | 14.9 | 3.90 | 7 | 3204 | 15955 | 4.98 | 4.98 | - |
| | 4.180 | 2.440 | JOR.KUWAIT BANK | 11.2 | 0.00 | 9 | 660 | 2076 | 3.15 | 3.16 | .01+ |
| | 1.050 | .740 | JOR.GULF BANK | 4.8 | 8.75 | 2 | 400 | 317 | .79 | .80 | .01+ |
| | 4.050 | 3.520 | JOR.ISLAMIC BANK | 15.0 | 3.26 | 11 | 2010 | 7396 | 3.69 | 3.68 | .01- |
| | 3.750 | 3.080 | JOR.INV.FIN.BANK | 24.4 | 0.00 | 11 | 2972 | 11283 | 3.71 | 3.79 | .08+ |
| | 2.030 | .890 | BEIT.AL-MAL (BEITNA). | .6 | 16.67 | 3 | 850 | 771 | .91 | .90 | .01- |
| | 5.150 | 3.650 | ARAB BANKING CO. | 18.1 | 0.00 | 4 | 1800 | 6710 | 3.65 | 3.75 | .10+ |
| | BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 238.93 | %CHG: -0.73 | | 95 | 90516 | 187319 | | | |
| | 2.050 | 1.550 | JOR.ELECTRIC PWR. | 9.1 | 5.29 | 46 | 20550 | 38914 | 1.91 | 1.89 | .02- |
| | 4.030 | 1.320 | IRBID ELECTRICITY | 19.8 | 3.45 | 6 | 3550 | 11822 | 3.51 | 3.33 | .18- |
| | 1.550 | .930 | NATL. PORTFOLIO | g | 0.00 | 2 | 600 | 780 | 1.31 | 1.30 | .01- |
| | 3.720 | 2.890 | ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC. | 9.2 | 0.00 | 4 | 1892 | 6668 | 3.53 | 3.53 | - |
| | 1.170 | .930 | ZARKA EDUCATION | g | 0.00 | 7 | 5750 | 5290 | .93 | .92 | .01- |
| | 2.230 | 1.630 | UNIFIED CO. | 8.4 | 6.21 | 5 | 1500 | 2657 | 1.78 | 1.77 | .01- |
| | .950 | .640 | UNION LAND DEV. | g | 0.00 | 22 | 6950 | 5566 | .78 | .80 | .02+ |
| | SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 110.70 | %CHG: -0.20 | | 91 | 40792 | 71696 | | | |
| | 4.450 | 3.220 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 23.2 | 3.19 | 8 | 6537 | 22606 | 3.46 | 3.45 | .01- |
| | 7.050 | 5.420 | ARAB POTASH CO. | 14.0 | 3.33 | 7 | 2182 | 13089 | 6.00 | 6.00 | - |
| | 11.100 | 9.070 | JOR. PETROL.REFINARY | 10.6 | 8.10 | 15 | 1360 | 14926 | 10.97 | 10.98 | .01+ |
| | 3.260 | 1.550 | INDUSTRIAL COMM.AGR. | g | 0.00 | 6 | 1650 | 2631 | 1.60 | 1.57 | .03- |
| | 4.700 | 3.040 | ARAB PHARM. MANF. | 12.4 | 4.44 | 23 | 4739 | 21378 | 4.56 | 4.50 | .06- |
| | 2.700 | 2.150 | JORDAN DAIRY | 9.3 | 8.89 | 1 | 100 | 275 | 2.70 | 2.75 | .05+ |
| | 1.760 | 1.270 | JOR.PIPES MANFCT. | 15.2 | 6.50 | 4 | 676 | 833 | 1.27 | 1.23 | .04- |
| | 6.000 | 4.300 | DAR ALDAWA DV.INV. | 14.2 | 4.31 | 2 | 650 | 3770 | 5.90 | 5.80 | .10- |
| | 3.850 | 2.220 | ARAB ALUM.IND. | 5.6 | 10.50 | 2 | 1500 | 3570 | 2.38 | 2.38 | - |
| | .710 | .450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 11.0 | 0.00 | 43 | 42550 | 21676 | .50 | .52 | .02+ |
| | 1.230 | .820 | ARAB PAPER CONV.TRD. | 27.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 223 | .89 | .89 | - |
| | .770 | .510 | NATIONAL INDS. | g | 0.00 | 9 | 4250 | 2380 | .57 | .56 | .01- |
| | .890 | .530 | JOR. GULPHO-CHEM | g | 0.00 | 13 | 6950 | 4751 | .69 | .68 | .01- |
| | 1.670 | 1.120 | ARAB PHARM.CHEM. | 16.5 | 5.43 | 1 | 200 | 258 | 1.29 | 1.29 | - |
| | 1.400 | .680 | KAWTHER INVEST. | 65.0 | 0.00 | 1 | 200 | 132 | .68 | .66 | .02- |
| | 1.880 | 1.080 | UNIV. MODN.INDS. | P | .21 | 6 | 2300 | 2801 | 1.22 | 1.22 | - |
| | 1.460 | .890 | JOR.INDS.RESOURCES | 12.1 | 11.11 | 7 | 2445 | 2199 | .91 | .90 | .01- |
| | 1.620 | 1.300 | NATL. CHLORINE | 14.4 | 4.58 | 5 | 2100 | 3250 | 1.56 | 1.53 | .03- |
| | 1.070 | .810 | JOR. NEW CABLE CO. | 15.8 | 0.00 | 16 | 11370 | 9778 | .86 | .86 | - |
| | 1.330 | 1.080 | INTL. TOBACCO | 6.3 | 0.00 | 7 | 1878 | 2194 | 1.16 | 1.16 | - |
| | 1.200 | .860 | UNION CH. & VEG. | 51.8 | 0.00 | 5 | 900 | 1034 | 1.16 | 1.14 | .02- |
| | INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 117.93 | %CHG: -0.19 | | 182 | 94787 | 133752 | | | |
| | GRAND TOTAL | | INDEX: 172.61 | %CHG: -0.50 | | 368 | 226095 | 392766 | | | |

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 12/10/1997

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | .630 | .300 | CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE | g | 0.00 | 4 | 4100 | 1379 | .33 | .34 | .01+ |
| | .610 | .380 | JOR.TRADE FAC. | 10.9 | 0.00 | 15 | 21700 | 8897 | .40 | .41 | .01+ |
| | .790 | .660 | UNION INV. 50% | g | 0.00 | 13 | 20250 | 5670 | .79 | .78 | .01- |
| | .570 | .360 | ARAB FIN.INVEST. | g | 0.00 | 15 | 58350 | 23340 | .40 | .40 | - |
| N | 1.110 | .850 | UNITED FOR FINAN.INV | 57.3 | 0.00 | 7 | 67500 | 74250 | 1.10 | 1.10 | - |
| | .690 | .490 | ARAB FOOD & MED. | g | 0.00 | 1 | 1500 | 735 | .50 | .49 | .01- |
| | .540 | .380 | ARAB INTL.INV.TRD. | 47.2 | 0.00 | 5 | 5350 | 2194 | .41 | .41 | - |
| | .750 | .400 | NATL.MULT.ENG.NAMICO | g | 0.00 | 11 | 8500 | 3485 | .41 | .41 | - |
| | .650 | .580 | MIDEAST PHARM. 75% | E | 0.00 | 7 | 13300 | 4921 | .62 | .62 | - |
| T | 1.330 | .860 | UNION TOBACCO 75% | g | 0.00 | 12 | 29100 | 31760 | 1.33 | 1.37 | .04+ |
| | .730 | .550 | RAZI PHARM. 85% | E | 0.00 | 6 | 6720 | 3494 | .66 | .67 | .01+ |
| | .490 | .290 | INDS. ENG. | g | 0.00 | 11 | 13500 | 4445 | .33 | .33 | - |
| | .820 | .590 | NATL. POULTRY | E | 0.00 | 9 | 17750 | 11183 | .63 | .63 | - |
| N | 1.000 | .690 | NAT.ALUMINIUM. 75% | 96.0 | 0.00 | 11 | 8750 | 3870 | .70 | .69 | .01- |
| N | 1.020 | .720 | ARAB INT. FOOD FACT. | 45.8 | 0.00 | 2 | 3000 | 2835 | .93 | .95 | .02+ |
| | .840 | .580 | MID.EAST COMPLEX | 7.5 | 16.39 | 2 | 800 | 488 | .61 | .61 | - |
| | GRAND TOTAL | | | | | 131 | 280170 | 182945 | | | |

↑ : New 12 months high
↓ : New 12 months low
N : Listed during the past 12 months
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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# England draw in Italy, join qualifiers

## *Germany, Holland, Denmark, Austria and Scotland clinch World Cup spots*

PARIS (AFP) — England held Italy to a 0-0 draw on a night of crowd violence in Rome and made certain of their place in next year's World Cup finals in France.

The stalemate ensured 1966 winners England finished on top of European Group Two and means Italy will now have to contest a play-off with one of seven other group runners-up to earn a place in the finals.

Germany scrambled to a 4-3 win over lowly Albania io Hanover but it was enough to seal them top spot in Group Nine and also clinch a place in France.

England and Germany were joined in qualifying hy Holland, Denmark, Austria and Scotland oo a frantic night of European action.

A total of 20 teams out of 32 have oow qualified.

England, who failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals, played with great discipline against an uninspired Italian side who are in danger of missing out for the first time since 1958.

The match was marred by fighting in the stands and ooe policeman and at least two of England's ootorious fans were injured in the clashes.

England, who defended for most of the match, could have won but striker Ian Wright hit a post in the dying minutes. Italy had Angelo Di Livio sent off for a wild challenge in the 76th minute and finished the match with 10 men.

Skipper Paul Ince was inspirational for England, finishing the game with a crimsoo-soaked bandage failing to halt the hlood pumping from his gashed head.

England were the first natioo to take a World Cup point off Italy in Rome in 16 matches.

Three-time world champions Germany, uobeateo in their last 18 games, finished oo top of their group, two points ahead of Ukraine — who won 2-0 away to Armenia and will cootest the play-offs.

Portugal finished third despite a 1-0 win over Northern Ireland and were eliminated.

Holland could only draw 0-0 at home to Turkey in Group Seven but it was enough to finish a point in front of neighbours and close rivals Belgium, who grabbed a place in the play-offs with a 3-2 win over Wales.

The Belgians led 3-0 at halftime hut Wales rallied impressively and had two peoalty appeals turned down in the second half. "They were hlatant," said furious Welsh captain Ryan Giggs.

Denmark drew 0-0 against Greece to end on top of Group Ooe — a match that was delayed for several minutes after Greek spectators threw flares onto the pitch — while Croatia grabbed second spot ahead of the Greeks with a 3-1 win in Slovenia.

Austria also qualified for the finals with an impressive 4-0 win over Belarus in Vienna that sealed them top spot in Group Four. The Austrians will he playing in the finals for the seveoth time.

England coach Glenn Hoddle (C) celebrates with assistant trainer John Gorman after England and Italy tied 0-0 in their World Cup qualifying match in Rome. England qualified while Italy have to go into the play-offs to get a place (Reuters photo)

*Austrian striker Toni Polster (R) scores his second goal from a penalty in the final* World Cup qualification match against Belarus. Austria won the match 4-0 and also won the World Cup qualification Group 4 with 25 points. On the left is Belarus' goalkeeper Andrei Satsunkevich (Reuters photo)

The Scots finished secood behind the Austrians, but also advanced directly as the runners-up with the best record in any of the groups.

Alhania took a stunning 55th-minute lead against Germany wheo Jurgeo Kohler headed into his own goal but Thomas Helmer equalized within nine minutes and Olivier Bierhoff made it 2-1 with a superb 73rd-minute header.

Aleksander Tare theo equalized for the Albanians, using some clever control before clipping past the goalkeeper into the net.

Olaf Marschall made it 3-2 for the Germans with four minutes remaining hut former Celtic midfielder Rudi Vata levelled it at 3-3 with an 88th-minute shot on the turn before Bierhoff grabbed the winner in the last minute of a hizarre eocounter.

"We have a hell of a lot of work ahead of us," said relieved German coach Berti Vogts.

Ukraine, meanwhile, got goals from Andrei Schevchenko and Yuri Maximov in Armenia.

Veteran striker Toni Polster and Peter Stoeger scored two goals apiece for the Austrians — all coming in the first half.

Scotland sealed their place with a 2-0 home win over Latvia while Sweden — who finished third in the 1994 World Cup — eoded up third despite a 1-0 win over Estonia and failed to qualify.

Strikers Kevin Gallacher, with a close-range shot, and Gordon Durie, with a late beader, were Scotland's heroes as they ultimately got the better of a tough, defence-minded Latvian outfit.

The Republic of Ireland, meanwhile, drew 1-1 at home to Romania, making sure of secood place in Group Eight and their spot in the play-offs.

Romania had already clinched top spot in the group and their spot in France and went through the qualifying tournament unbeaten.

They took the lead with a 35-yard shot from Gheorghe Hagi and held the lead until Tooy Cascarino equalized for the Irish with a header six minutes from fulltime — his 19th goal for the Repuhlic.

Yugoslavia romped to a 5-0 win away to Malta — good eoough for secood spot in Group Six after Spain, already assured of qualifying, got two goals from Luis Enrique in a 3-1 win at home to the Faroe Islands in Gijon.

Bulgaria, relaxed after already having sealed their spot in the finals, weot down 4-2 away to Russia in Group Five in a match that had no bearing on qualification.

Norway had already woo Group Three and Hungary grabbed the runner-up spot with a dramatic 1-1 draw away to rivals Finland, who had oeeded to win to advance to the play-offs. The Hungarians are biding to qualify for the first time since 1986 but left it to the last minute to get their fortunate equalizer.

Vilmos Sebok saw his shot deflected hy Finland's Sami Mahlio, hit goalkeeper Teuvo Moilanen in the back and go in the net to rob the home side of a play-off spot.

The 14 teams to have qualified prior to Saturday's matches were: France (hosts), Brazil (holders), Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Cameroon, Romania, Norway, Bulgaria, Spain, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay.

### *Final European Group standings*

**Group One**

| | P | W | L | D | GF | GA | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 6 | 17 |
| Croatia | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 15 |
| Greece | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 14 |
| Bosnia-Herz. | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 9 |
| Slovenia | 8 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 20 | 1 |

**Group Two**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 19 |
| Italy | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 18 |
| Poland | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 10 |
| Georgia | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 10 |
| Moldova | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 21 | 0 |

**Group Three**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Norway | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 21 | 2 | 20 |
| Hungary | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 12 |
| Finland | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| Switzerland | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 10 |
| Azerbaijan | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 22 | 3 |

**Group Four**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 4 | 25 |
| Scotland | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 23 |
| Sweden | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 9 | 21 |
| Latvia | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 10 |
| Estonia | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 16 | 4 |
| Belarus | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 21 | 4 |

**Group Eive**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bulgaria | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 18 |
| Russia | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 5 | 17 |
| Israel | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 13 |
| Cyprus | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 10 |
| Luxembourg | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 22 | 0 |

**Group Six**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 26 | 6 | 26 |
| Yugoslavia | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 29 | 7 | 23 |
| Czech Republic | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 6 | 16 |
| Slovakia | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 14 | 16 |
| Faroe Islands | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 6 |
| Malta | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 37 | 0 |

**Group Seven**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Holland | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 4 | 19 |
| Belgium | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 11 | 18 |
| Turkey | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 9 | 14 |
| Wales | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 20 | 21 | 7 |
| San Marino | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 42 | 0 |

**Group Eight**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Romania | 10 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 37 | 4 | 28 |
| R. of Ireland | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 22 | 8 | 18 |
| Lithuania | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 8 | 17 |
| Macedonia | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 22 | 18 | 13 |
| Iceland | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 9 |
| Liechtenstein | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 52 | 0 |

**Group Nine**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 23 | 9 | 22 |
| Ukraine | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 20 |
| Portugal | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 19 |
| Armenia | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 8 |
| N. Ireland | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 7 |
| Albania | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 20 | 4 |

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## World Cup play-off qualifiers

PARIS (AFP) — The following is a list of runners-up in European qualifying groups for the 1998 World Cup in France.

Scotland qualify directly as the runners-up with the best record against the top teams in their group, while the eight others will contest two-leg play-offs on Octoher 29 and November 15 with the winners advancing.

The draw for the play-offs will be made on Mooday afternoon:

1- Scotland 13 points - qualified
2- Belgium 12
3- Italy 12
4- Yugoslavia 11
5- Croatia 11
6- Russia 9
7- Ukraine 8
8- R. of Ireland 8
9- Hungary 6

## *Africa — a continent to be respected*

LENS (AFP) — Africa will be a cootineot to he reckooed with in next year's World Cup, South African coach Clive Barker said after their impressive showing despite defeat to France here on Saturday night.

For the first time ever, the 32-natioo World Cup has five African teams — Nigeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Cameroon and Morocco.

"There won't be any easy contests against African sides in the World Cup," said the diminutive coach Barker who has a record of 22 wins, eight draws and eight losses since taking charge in April 1994.

South Africa, nicknamed Bafana Bafana, fell 2-1 in a friendly victory on Saturday in a match where the visitors proved themselves worthy World Cup qualifiers.

When Shaun Bartlett put the African champions ahead just before the break, it looked as though they might sneak their first ever victory over European competition.

But debutant Stephane Guivarc'h and then substitute Ibrahim Ba fouod the oet in the second half to secure the win for France.

"I'm sure African sides will be respected oext year in France.

We may not have won, but France did oot have it all their own way and I think we earned their respect," Barker added.

Just eight mooths before the opening of next year's June 10 to July 12 finals, the Felix Bollaert stadium saw a hotly-contested fixture between countries more suited to rugby internatiooals.

Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit left the field with half an hour gone with a right ankle injury, leaving the way for midfielder Alain Boghossian to make his first appearance for France.

South Africa had a few long range shots and crosses which came to nothing before France had a major shock.

With five minutes to go till the interval, Phil Masinga did superbly well to win the hall just outside the area. The French defence moved forward thinking the pass to Bartlett was well offside.

But the 25-year-old New York MetroStars striker, winning his 14th cap, provoked no flag from Luxembourg referee Roger Philippi.

Bartlett promptly rounded the keeper and easily guided the ball into an empty net.

Louds jeers emanated from the disappointed home crowd on the first half whistle.

Juventus playmaker Zinedine Zidane came on for striker Robert Pires to give France more midfield muscle in the second half.

And minutes later he nearly scored as his right foot shot from an angle skimmed keeper Andre Areodsi's right hand post.

So it was no surprise when the 53rd minute equalizer included Zidane. His first shot was cleared badly leaving Guivarc'h to slot the ball past Arendsi for his first international goal.

John Moeti received a yellow card for a foul oo Djorkaeff momeots before substitute Isaac Shah moved into left midfield in place of Helman Mkhalele.

Both sides changed around with Pierre Laigle coming in at left back in place of Vincent Candela, and Ba replacing Djorkaeff for France.

And South Africa's Clint Larsen replaced midfielder Eric Tinkler followed hy Mark Williams coming on up front for goal scorer Bartlett.

AC Milan's Ba then hit the winner for France with seven minutes to go. Fed hy skipper Didier Deschamps, he stormed into the area and angled his shot just inside Arendsi's right hand post.

Barker said afterwards self-helief was the difference between the two sides. "We oeed to have a little bit more confidence in ourselves and go the extra mile.

"I was a little disappointed with the result because we were so close, in fact eight minutes from a historic victory. The rainy conditions did oot help us and I think if we had been playing oo a hot sunny day in Johannesburg, it might have been different."

Freoch coach Aime Jacquet said: "This match was a good base to start from and gave us a lot to think about.

"We played against an excelleot South African team technically and physically. After the break, it was better, we were more aggressive and had a better balance in our play."

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*Holly Hunter & Sigourney Weaver ...in*
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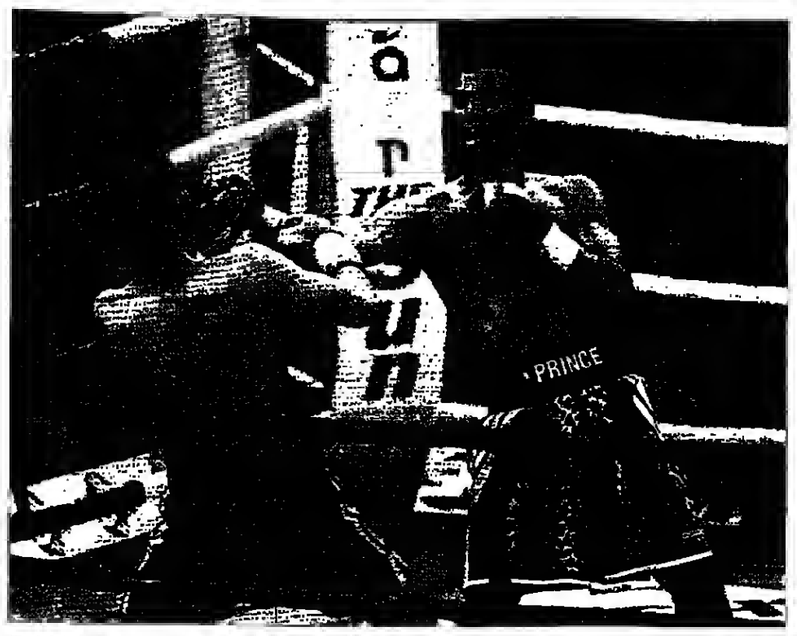
# Hamed retains crown

SHEFFIELD (AFP) — Britain's World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight champion 'Prince' Naseem Hamed turned on a superb display of thunderous jabbing to outclass Puerto Rico's Jose Badillo and retain his crown here Saturday night.

Hamed successfully completed his eighth defence of his title by stopping the 27-year-old southpaw in the seventh round of a scheduled 12-round contest.

Badillo, who had soaked up tremendous punishment, was finally saved when the referee stopped the contest as Hamed tore in with a series of bruising combinations.

After Hamed had made his usual spectacular entrance, he went clinically to work using a jab he had under-employed in previous defences. Very soon Badillo's face was swollen and bruised but he bravely stayed upright and survived the expected third-round onslaught — Hamed having predicted that he would finish it before the fourth.



British boxer Prince Naseem Hamed (R) fights Jose Badillo from Puerto Rico for the WBO featherweight championship in Sheffield October 10. Hamed won the bout after the referee stopped the fight in the 7th round (Renters photo)

In the fifth, Hamed clowned and shuffled and the capacity Sheffield crowd loved it. But Hamed's manager Brendan Ingle was clearly not amused.

Badillo, who lost his previous world challenge for the IBF crown against Hamed's victim Tom Johnson, managed to land a chopping right which Hamed acknowledged with a nod. But the pressure was telling.

The end came in the seventh with the challenger clearly unable to defend himself.

After his win Hamed said: "I boxed brilliant, I don't care what anyone says. I'm not just a puncher. I have got a wicked technique.

I am one in a million. I am the best in the world.

"Badillo was a good boxer," Hamed went on, adding: "He was strong and he has my respect. But I used my head and in the end he went the same way as the others."

Hamed is now heading Madison Square Garden in New York before Christmas where he is expected to meet American Kevin Kelley.

Kelley, who was at ringside to witness Hamed's win, said afterwards: "I am the real deal. I am going to smoke your boots. I am a party crasher. I am going to crash your party."

# Ferrari tactics put Schumacher back in championship

SUZUKA (AFP) — Perfect Ferrari tactics and teamwork won Michael Schumacher Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix and put him back in contention for the 1997 World Championship, setting up a shoot-out with Jacques Villeneuve at the final race in Spain.

Villeneuve came here the favourite to win the title, with a nine point lead over Schumacher. He left with a lead of just one point, and that lead in jeopardy if he loses an appeal against disqualification from this race.

"I have to think a long time back for so much satisfaction," said a beaming Schumacher, "not only for the victory but for coming back into the championship."

Ferrari made Schumacher's teammate Eddie Irvine both a hare and a tortoise, using his expertise on the Suzuka track to take an early lead, then pulling him back to give Schumacher the lead and block Villeneuve.

"Today we saw a great team at work," said Ferrari team boss Jean Todt, "a great Eddie and a great Michael."

Schumacher also praised Irvine, saying the race had ended all the questions, posed recently in the Italian media, about Irvine's future with Ferrari.

In a rare display of team tactics in modern Formula One, both Ferrari and Williams planned blocking strategies for the race, in which Villeneuve would win the title if he finished ahead of Schumacher.

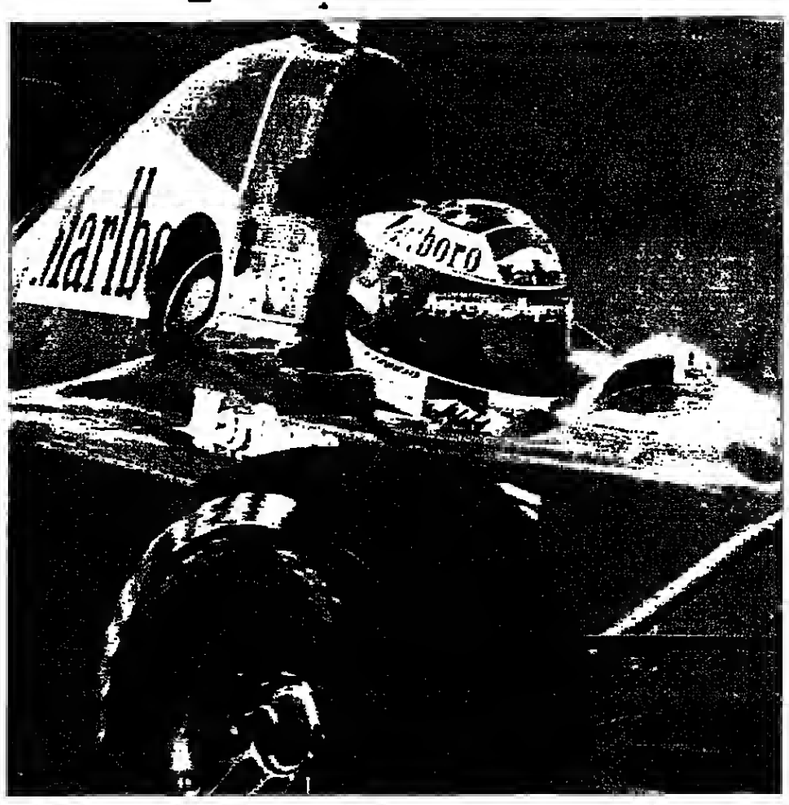
It was Ferrari plan, which included superior pit stop strategy, that succeeded.

"I had only one objective," Villeneuve said. "To block Michael and try to get cars between us."

He took the lead from pole position into the first corner, with a display of aggressive driving that nearly had Schumacher pushed off the track.

But Villeneuve admitted he was "astonished that no one passed Schumacher" as he held up the Ferrari and a train of 12 cars, almost nose to tail.

Irvine took the lead on lap 3 of the 53 lap race with some masterly passing moves on his favourite circuit, then "waited for the phone call."



Germany's Michael Schumacher drives his Ferrari to win the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix race in Suzuka. Schumacher clocked one hour 29 minutes 48.446 seconds in 53 laps (Reuters photo)

It was a radio message from the Ferrari pits that told him to slow down, let Schumacher past, and block Villeneuve to allow Schumacher to build up a comfortable lead.

Any chance Villeneuve had of catching Schumacher disappeared when a fuel hose problem cost him an extra long pit stop.

Williams technical chief Patrick Head later said: "I think Villeneuve probably lost a bit of heart after that stop."

Villeneuve came out of the pits a little bit in front of Schumacher, but the German's momentum carried him past. Schumacher complained that Villeneuve's charge out of the pit lane across the track was dangerous, and he had to swerve inside the Williams.

Irvine made a similar complaint about Villeneuve's teammate Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who employed the same tactic to grab second place, holding Irvine off to the finish.

Mika Hakkinen's McLaren Mercedes was fourth ahead of Villeneuve, with Jean Alesi in the Benetton Renault sixth.

Frentzen's place gave Williams the constructors' World Championship for a record ninth time, and the sixth consecutive title for Renault, equalling Honda's record.

Schumacher had an unexpectedly difficult moment with two laps to go to the flag, when he came up behind the Arrows Yamaha of his old rival, Damon Hill, a lap behind.

Hill held Schumacher up for an entire lap, costing him four seconds of a five-second lead over Frentzen, bringing angry gestures from Schumacher when he eventually passed.

Then Hill let Frentzen past immediately, but the Williams driver knew he would find Schumacher very difficult to pass, and did not seriously try.

The major controversy of the weekend was the disqualification of Villeneuve on Saturday for not slowing under a yellow flag, for which he has twice been penalised, and once pardoned, already this year.

It was only a Williams appeal to the FIA's International Tribunal that got Villeneuve reinstated in the race.

The Tribunal sits in Paris, probably next week before practice for the European Grand Prix starts in Jerez, Spain, on Oct. 24.

Depending on the result, either Villeneuve or Schumacher will have a lead of one point before the race there.

"Whoever finishes in front will be the champion," Schumacher said. "That's the right situation for me."

# SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Shafiq receives Al Hussein award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Faisali's and Jordanian national team goalkeeper Anis Shafiq was Sunday presented with the Hussein Distinguished Award of the second degree. HRH Prince Abdullah, president of the Jordan Football Association, presented the award to the veteran player on the occasion of his retirement from the sport.

## Saudi Arabia coach gets the chop

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia coach Eduardo Vingada was sacked on Sunday following the narrow 1-0 victory over Qatar in a World Cup qualifier. The Portuguese will be replaced by German Otto Pfeister for the remainder of the qualifying competition. The Saudis currently lie second in Asian Zone Group B, level on seven points with China after four games. Iran lead the table with eight points. Only the group winners are certain of reaching the finals in France next year.

## Grigorian retains title

COTTBUS, Germany (AFP) — Artur Grigorian of Uzbekhistan retained his WBO lightweight title on Saturday night with a unanimous 12-round decision over American David Armstrong. German-based Grigorian improved his record to 23-0, while Armstrong fell to 11-2-2.

## Brazil unlikely to call up Elber

HANOVER (AFP) — Bayern Munich's quicksilver striker Giovane Elber is unlikely to feature in Brazil's World Cup team in France next year — Brazil's manager Mario Zagalo admitted here Saturday. Zagaldo, in Germany to watch Germany's victory in their World Cup qualifier against Albania on Saturday, said after the match that he had no plans to call the 25-year-old Elber into the squad.

## Hingis retains title

FILDERSTADT (AFP) — World No.1 Martina Hingis breezed to a 6-4, 6-2 win over American Lisa Raymond on Sunday to win the WTA Tour event here for the second straight year. It was the first time in her career that the 17-year-old Swiss player had successfully defended a title. Hingis, the top seed, took just 66 minutes to defeat unseeded Raymond for her 11th title of the year.

# Major League results

BALTIMORE (AFP) — Results Saturday from the Major League Baseball playoffs (all series best of seven):

**American League finals**
Cleveland 2 Baltimore 1 (12 innings)
(Cleveland lead series 2-1)

**National League finals**
Atlanta 4 Florida 0
(Series tied 2-2)

# Gustafsson beats Kiefer to win Singapore Open

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Swedish veteran Magnus Gustafsson, seeking to rebuild a career disrupted by injury, outlasted German rising star Nicolas Kiefer in an intense three-set final to win the Singapore Open on Sunday.

Gustafsson, 30, seeded seventh, fought back from one set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in two hours, two minutes at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in front of 5,000 fans. He is the oldest player to win a title so far this year.

Top-seeded Indians Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won their sixth doubles title of the year when they beat experienced Americans Rick Leach and Jonathan Stark 6-4, 6-4, with a service break in each set.

The Asian flag-bearers made sure of securing a berth in the ATP world doubles championship with their win, which was worth $45,000 for the duo ranked number five in the world.

The singles victory was worth $102,000 for the Swede, a former top 10 player who is now ranked world number 42, six rungs above the 20-year-old German who pocketed $53,000.

It was the 10th career title for Gustafsson, who overcame a brief spell of frustration over questionable line calls and prevented the highly-rated Boris Becker protege from winning his second tournament within a month.

"I realy wanted to win this badly, to get my titles into a double figure," said the genial Swede, who underwent surgery to correct a shoulder problem earlier this year for the second time in three years.

Kiefer won the first set in 50 minutes with a service break in the last game, but his usually potent serve which was not broken in four previous matches collapsed against the determined Swede who hit back with all he had.

Gustafsson broke Kiefer's serve thrice in the second set to draw level and raced to a 3-0 lead in the deciding set, cheered on by fans whose support he said surprised him.

But Kiefer fought to level at 3-3, breaking the Swede's serve with some brilliant service returns in the fifth game. The eighth game went to deuce five times before Kiefer hit long to hand his opponent the crucial break.

Gustafsson proceeded to serve out the match, finishing it off with his favourite cross-court forehand.

Both players questioned several line calls and Gustafsson said he was happy he kept his temper in check and didn't do or say anything he would have regretted later.

Gustafsson paid tribute to the talent of Kiefer, who won his first tournament last month in Toulouse and is rated as one of the most exciting young players in world tennis.

"He is fast. He has a good first serve, he is a very tough competitor," Gustafsson said. "He has definitely got a future."

Kiefer said he didn't play his usual game but added that the confidence boost he received from making the final here, on top of his Toulouse win, was "good preparation" for the future.

# Amman Little League

**Tots Division** 1990-1992 (All are winners)
Alsadat Exchange vs ATRO
Klim vs Delonghi

**Juniors One Division** 1988-1989
IPCO 0 vs Aljawhara 1
Nokia 2 vs Varta 0
Standings: Nokia 10 points; Varta 4 points; Al Jawhara; 6 points; IPCO 2 points

**Juniors Two Division** 1986-1987
Intervet vs Porsche (will be played on Mon. Oct. 13th)
Standings: Intervet 7 points; RMCCS 4 points; Porsche 5 points; RJ 0 points

**Mids Division** 1984-1985
Reinert 2 vs Amigo Nabil 2
Arby's 2 vs Dune's Club 4
Standings: Dune's Club 9 points; Reinert 4 points; Amigo Nabil 7 points; Arby's 3 points;

**Senior Division** 1981-1983
Jordan Insurance 5 vs Coffee Break 1
Zalatimo 3 vs Coaches 4
Standings: Jordan Insurance 4 points; Zalatimo 4 points; Coffee Break 3 points;

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# Levy likely to lead Israeli team to Doha conference

DOHA (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy would most likely head Israel's team to the controversial Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Doha, an Israeli diplomat said on Sunday.

"Qatar has already said it would invite David Levy, and from our point of view it will obviously be the foreign minister who will lead the delegation," said Sammy Ravel, head of Israel's trade missinn in Doha.

"Other members of the delegation will be the economy minister and heads of various economic organisations and key businessmen," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ravel said he has not yet received the Qatari invitation to be forwarded to his government. "But it is just a technical formality. We hope to get the invitation soon..."

Qatari officials would not comment on whether an invitation has been sent to Israel.

"We have invited all those countries who attended the MENA summit in Cairo last November," said Mohammad Ismail Imadi, head of the Conference Coordination Committee.

Israel attended the Cairo summit.

But this year's November 16-18 meet, which Qatar downgraded from summit to a conference on a ministerial level, has run into fierce controversy over Israel's participation.

Many Arab countries have privately asked Qatar to cancel or at least postpone the MENA conference because of the crisis in the Middle East peace process.

Jewish settlement building on occupied territories and what Arabs see as Israeli failure to carry out peace deals signed with the Palestinians have prompted some Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, to announce they would boycott MENA.

Qatar is, however, determined to host the conference as scheduled and its foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani, has sent invitations to his counterparts and organisations in 92 countries.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have been blocked since March when Israel started building a oew Jewish settlement on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem. Top Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed after talks with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in New York on Monday to resume formal peace talks next week.

### Palestinians undecided on attending economic forum in Qatar

GAZA (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has yet to decide if it will seod a delegation to next mooth's Middle East and North Africa Economic (MENA) confereoce, a top Palestinian official said Sunday.

Palestinian Minister for Internatiooal Cooperatioo Nabil Shaath told journalists that "we have received an invitation [to the forum], and we are going to discuss it."

Several Arab states have objected to the Nov. 16-18 MENA conference because of Israel's participation in it. Qatar said Saturday it has invited 92 countries and expects some 2,500 foreign participants.

The annual event brings together officials and businessmen from the Arab World, Israel, the U.S., Europe and Japan in an effort to boost regional cooperation as a complemeot to the Middle East peace process.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have said they would not attend the conference because of the deadlock in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Syria and Lebanon have been boycotting the annual forum since it's incepoon in 1994 in Morocco.

MOTHER TURNED NUN BEATIFIED: A tapestry showing Belgian mother of four turned nun, Countess Emilie D'Oultremont, who was beatified by Pope John Paul II, hangs Sunday. The Pope beatified five people Sunday in the 100th beatification ceremony of his 19-year pontificate (see story on page 5) (AFP photo)

# Israeli school history book omits Rabin assassination

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's education ministry Sunday caused a storm by approving a history textbook for use in the country's schools which fails to mention the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The work, to be introduced in the 1997-1998 school year, is designed to commemorate Israel's 50-year existence.

But as well as the omission of the death of Rabin at the hands of a Jewish extremist the book also expounds a stereotypical view of Arabs.

It portrays all Arabs as wanting to destroy Israel and makes no mention of the 1987-1993 Intifada uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against Israeli occupation or the peace treaties signed by Israel with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

Opposition deputies have called for the book to be withdrawn from schools, and teachers' unions have called for a boycott of the text.

"This omission is a scandal. They are trying to gloss over in silence the murder of Rabin which was the greatest catastrophe this country has known, as well as Israel's aspiration for peace," Abraham Ben Shohat, the chairman of the teachers' union, told Israel radio.

Lea Hovev, the author of the text, said that she had not found any good accounts chronicling Rabin's killing. She added that the peace process was "too complicated" to explain to children.

Education Minister Zvolun Hammer is from the National Religious Party (NRP), which has a strong power base among Jewish settlers.

His predecessor Amnoo Rubinstein, from the leftwing Meretz party, called the book "a disgrace for the education ministry and those leading it."

Rabin was gunned down by Jewish extremist Yigal Amir after a peace rally in November 1995 in Tel Aviv. Amir was opposed to the peace process with the Palestinians.

# Jailers forget to give food to Rabin's murderer

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli jailers neglected for three days to bring food to Yitzhak Rabin's convicted killer during the Jewish new year holiday, an official spokeswoman said on Sunday.

Yigal Amir, serving a life seotence for gunning down the slain prime minister in 1995 to thwart peacemaking with the Arabs, is held in solitary confinement at a maximum security prisoo in southern Israel.

"It was a misunderstanding. The regular wardens were off duty for the holiday and their replacemeots each thought the other had brought food to his cell," said Prison Authority spokeswoman Orit Messer-Harel.

She said an internal inquiry had beeo launched to verify the matter.

Amir's mother explained that her son, a religious Jew, refrained from pressing the call buzzer in his cell during the three days because Jewish law bars turning on or off electrical devices on holidays.

"This is shocking. It's a terrible thing. He did what he did and he's paying the price but be's still a human being. He has basic rights," Geula Amir told Reuters.

She said her son snacked on pretzels he purchased at the prison canteen before the holiday.

The Jewish new year, Rosh Hashana, ended with the start of the Jewish Sabbath on Oct. 3 when turning on or off electrical devices is also forhidden.

# Iran hails U.S. listing of rebel group as terrorist

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Sunday welcomed a move by the United States to include the main Iranian rebel group in a list of terrorist organisations, but urged Washingtoo to back up the decision with action.

"Calling the Monafeqin (hypocrites) a terrorist group is to state the facts about the terrorist nature of this organisation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said, referring to the main armed opposition group, People's Mujahedeen.

"But we hope that the U.S. government will not suffice with words, and it shows its opposition to terrorism in actioo and legal measures against this group," he added, quoted by newspapers.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright included the Mujahedeen last week on a U.S. list of 30 terrorist organisations barred from raising funds in or entering the U.S.

She also said members of the blacklisted groups would be ineligible for U.S. visas and that their funds would be frozeo under a new anti-terrorism law that Mr. Clinton signed in April 1996.

The condioons expire in two years unless reoewed.

The Mujahedeen are hated by the Islamic republic because of their violeot campaign against Iranian leaders in the early 1980s. Tehran also repeatedly accuses the Iraqi-based rebel group of acts of terrorism inside the country and cross-border attacks.

Iran has repeatedly accused the U.S. and European countries of supporting the Mujahedeen, where the oppositioo group is politically active against the Islamic Republic.

Mr. Mohammadi also urged the U.S. to take a stance against "state terrorism, an expression of which is the Zionist regime," — a reference to Israel.

He also pledged that his country would cooperate with the international community to fight terrorism, but cautioned that "distinctioo should be made between terrorism and struggle to end occupation."

Iran justifies its support for the Lebanese Hizbollah and Palestinian Islamists oo the grounds that they are fighting to liberate their land from Israeli occupaoon.

# Egyptian Islamist group threatens U.S.

BEIRUT (AFP) — The military wing of the Egyptian Islamist group Jamaa Islamiyah has threatened to turn its followers ioto "time bombs" against the United States after it was included oo a U.S. list of terrorist organisatioos.

Jamaa Islamiyab, in a statement published Sunday in the Arab daily Asharq Al Awsat, coodemned its inclusioo last week oo a U.S. State Department list of 30 groups barred from eotering and fund-raising in the United States.

"Jamaa Islamiyah repeats that Islamic movemeots are capable of turning the bodies of more than a billioo Muslims into time bombs pursuing Americans and Jews in Egypt, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon," the statemeot said.

The group said the U.S. decision bolsters its hostile policy towards the Islamist movemeot and aims to eclipse the failed Israeli attempt to kill a Hamas leader in the Jordanian capital last month which made a mockery of Israeli-Jordanian peace treaties.

"Jamaa Islamiyah will oot allow the White House's policy of kidnapping and assassinating the Islamist movemeot's brothers to go uopunished," it said.

Several Palestinian groups and another Egyptian Islamist organisatioo, Al Jihad, were also included oo the State Departmeot list.

# Non-Orthodox Jews take over American Zionist movement

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Reform and conservative Jews have woo the upper hand in elections in the U.S. Zionist movemeot, trouncing their Orthodox co-religionists, a reform represeotative in Israel said Sunday.

The Reform and Conservative streams garnered nearly 74 per ceot of the vote while in the last U.S. Zionist electioos, 15 years ago, they got only 32 per ceot.

In this electioo, 47.7 per cent of the vote weot to reform Jews and 26 per ceot to conservative Jews.

About 111,000 American-Jews participated in the elections, which were completed at the eod of last week to select 145 of the 500 delegates to the 33rd Zionist Congress, which opens in Israel in December.

The Zionist confederatioo of the U.S. is the world's most powerful after Israel's.

"The results confirm a deep change in the heart of American Judaism which is increasingly less accepting of the mixture of religious extremism and oatiooalism which the [Benyamin] Netanyahu government represeots," Reform Judaism representative Paula Edelstein told Agence France Presse.

She said the central theme of the elections in the United States was religious "pluralism" in Israel.

Although the Zionist Coogress has not had political power since the state of Israel was created in 1948 and its main purpose now is to collect funds for Israel, the vote has symbolic value.

Most American Jews beloog to the reform and conservative movements, while in Israel the Orthodox community bas a monopoly on religious authority.

The Orthodox, who do not accept any deviation from Jewish law, refuse to confer any legitimacy oo the other two streams and oppose state recognitioo of conversioos performed hy their rabbis.

# Tangled plot backfires, weakens Netanyahu's grip on power

TEL AVIV (AP) — Benyamin Netanyahu loves a daring feat.

As a deputy foreign minister a decade ago, he suggested in a meeting to blow up an Israeli hotel rather than hand it to Egypt. At the time, his idea was dismissed with embarrassed silence.

But now he is prime minister and often acts oo his impulses without seeking expert advice.

Mr. Netanyahu's latest venture — ordering the assassioation of a Hamas leader in Jordan to avenge suicide bombings in Israel — is still reverberating across the Middle East in ways never anticipated by the Israeli leader.

The bungled job has strengthened the very Islamists he sought to contain, soured ties with the country that has shown the warmest relations to Israel in the Arab World, chilled relations with Canada, weakened Israel's Mossad spy agency and loosened his grip on power.

Mr. Netanyahu ordered the Sept. 25 hit on Hamas political strategist Khaled Misha'al without consulting his cabinet — including his foreign minister, who subsequently threatened to resign — and Israeli newspapers say he didn't bother to get an opinion from the chiefs of military intelligence and the domestic Shin Bet security service. Only the Mossad chief, Danny Yatom, was in the picture.

Israelis are now wondering why Mr. Netanyahu ignored the obvious political repercussions of ordering a clandestine operation in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Mr. Netanyahu didn't even consider the mission could fail, even though it involved a high-risk technique of injecting poison into a moving target on a busy street in broad daylight, according to the Haaretz daily.

The newspaper reported the Israeli leader thought the assault would be untraceable, thus allowing Israel to deny involvement as it has done in the past.

If a three-man inquiry committee appointed by Mr. Netanyahu confirms that he acted alone in ordering Mr. Misha'al's assassination, it would deepen his image as a reckless leader.

Several major scandals in Mr. Netanyahu's 16 mooths in power have been attributed to his babit of oot seeking advice. Among these were opening a tourist tunnel near Al Aqsa Mosque — which triggered Palestinian riots that cost 80 lives — and appointing a political crony as attorney general.

"Since coming to power, be bas been continually plagued by serious errors of judgement," journalist Uri Benziman wrote in Friday's Haaretz.

Many Israelis don't care if the Mossad assassinates suspected terrorists — and there is a long list of successful hits — but they do mind failures that undercut Israel's power of deterrence.

"For the average Israeli, the failure is that one Hamas bodyguard achieved this victory over Mossad and the prime minister," said political scientist Menachem Klein at Tel Aviv's Bar Ilan University.

Still, the scandal is unlikely to bring Mr. Netanyahu down oow.

He has broad support in his right-wing coalition that only increased by his having targeted Hamas.

Under Israel's new electoral system, parliament needs to muster an absolute majority to oust the prime minister.

He is very skilled in influencing public opinion and many Israelis have become indifferent. "Israelis bave become accustomed to very strange ways of government," said Avner Shalit of the Hebrew University. "You would expect we would all take to the streets, me included."

Paradoxically, the scandal may actually have helped give new life to the comatose peace process. Mr. Netanyahu had to release Hamas founder Ahmad Yassin to get back the Mossad ageots. Sheikh Yassin, a 61-year-old quadriplegic, may reestablish Hamas' centre in the Palestinian-controlled areas rather than in the more radical diaspora, and moderate the group's positions.

However, Sheikh Yassin also poses a serious political challenge to Yasser Arafat, Israel's peace partner. With his clean record among militants, Sheikh Yassin, who vehemeotly opposes the peace accords, can win more support by taking Mr. Arafat to task over widespread corruption and human rights violations.

A summit between Messrs Netanyahu and Arafat this week — the first in eight months — was a direct outcome of the failed attempt on Mr. Misha'al's affair. Both leaders played mainly to their own audiences, hoping that some progress on the peace front, even procedural, would distract from Mr. Arafat's troubles with Hamas and Mr. Netanyahu's with Mr. Misha'al.

Other than assuring his political survival, Mr. Netanyahu will have to try and win back King Hussein's trust. The Monarch, according to Israeli newspapers, suspected that Mr. Netanyahu deliberately tried to destabilise Jordan with the attack on Mr. Misha'al.

In a phone call to U.S. President Bill Clinton, an exasperated King Hussein reportedly said, referring to Mr. Netanyahu: "He is an impossible man to deal with." King Hussein refused to see Mr. Netanyahu when be came to Jordan several days after the attack to try to mend relations.

Another diplomatic fracas erupted with Canada over the Mossad agents' use of forged Canadian passports. Canada has recalled its ambassador and an Israeli official said the Canadians also reduced security cooperatioo to a bare minimum, including sharing intelligence on Canada's large Lebanese community.

In Haaretz this week, columnist Akiva Eldar wrote that Mr. Netanyahu's handling of the case reminded him of an incident in 1988, when Mr. Netanyahu was deputy foreign minister.

Mr. Eldar wrote that after international arbitrators ruled that Israel had to return the Taba enclave to Egypt as part of their peace treaty, Mr. Netanyahu raised the idea that Israel first blow up the hotel it had built there.

The Foreign Ministry officials in the room "smiled forgivingly" at the youthful politician, Mr. Eldar wrote. At that time "it was possible to laugh. Now, when the keys are in his hands, it's not funny at all."

## COLUMN

### British zookeepers give gorillas what they 'really like' — TV

LEICESTER (AFP) — A zoo in central England has decided to give its three gorillas what "they really like" — colour television. The zoo io Twycross, Leicestershire, will fit out a new play area, to include a large garden, at a cost of some $480,000. "There'll be thiogs like ropes, rotten timbers, a termite mouod — and a television, because they really like that," said Molly Badham, the zoo's owner. "When the keeper turns it off they scream. We know they understand because there are certain things they respond to and others they ignore," Badham said. Mambi, Tiger and Asanti are currently sharing space with other monkeys. With the oew facility, the trio, aged six, eight and 12, will enjoy peace and quiet at a time of life when they oeed it, Badham said.

### Priests' cold water treatment relieves toilet smells

DUSSELDORF (AFP) — Pouring cold water oo the noöon of forgiveness, a priest has installed an infrared alarm system to dampeo the inteotioos of those answering the call of oature on a wall beside his church. Anyone straying across the line without activating the door of the garage next to Sankt Lambertus church bere is sprayed by two jets of cold water. The $2,000 system was set up in order to relieve the area of the smell caused by people urinating against the wall of the garage beside the church. "The municipality opened a new walkway along the Rhioe io order to attract thousands of tourists, hut only made one public toilet available," he added.

### Statue goes eight centimetres too far for villagers

BONN (AFP) — A bronze statue of Bacchus weot too far — eight ceotimetres, to be precise — for villagers in western Germany offended hy the god's ohvious virility, the Bild newspaper reported Suoday. The statue of a nude Bacchus, god of wine and merrymaking, was to he put up in the ceotral square of Kobern-Goodorf village to celebrate the wine harvest this week. But the village's 3,000 inhabitants were so shocked hy sculptor Kurt Lehmann's graphic portrayal of the god's male attrihutes they formed an "Aoti-Bacchus" associatioo and relegated the statue to a warehouse away from the puhlic gaze.

### Hendrix honoured because other musicians not dead enough

NEW YORK (AP) — The Eoglish Heritage's next honoree is shaking up some of those söff upper lips with Jimi Hendrix, a rock star and a Yank. The society that has hoooured the likes of Winston Churchill and Lord Byron made Hendrix the first rock legend to get its distinctive Blue Plaques at his home. "What's oext? A plaque to oasis?" said Clive Asler, editor of the patrician monthly Country Life. Others said Britain has more than its share of rock greats. Elain Harwood of the English Heritage told Eotertainment Weekly in its Oct. 17 issue that Heodrix, who died in 1970 at age 27, was selected last month because he was one of the few legends eligible. Other musicians wereo't "dead enough," she said. "You have to be dead for at least 20 years to get a Blue Plaque."